FRIDAY
August 15, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
40 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 194

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

78 YEARS OF FREEDOM

A call to safeguard federalism, democracy

Writing for *The Hindu* on Independence Day, CMs of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka remind us of the ideals that shaped the nation

PAGE 13 & PAGE 6 OF INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL FEATURE

OPERATION SINDOOR

World has taken note of India, says Murmu

NEWS » PAGE 16

INDUS TREATY

India criticises Pak. and Hague court

NEWS » PAGE 16

Publish names of 65 lakh excluded voters: SC to EC

Bench wants full list of excluded Bihar electors to be published with specific reasons; it says voters not included in the draft roll can file their objections by applying with a copy of their Aadhaar

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in an interim order on Thursday, directed the Election Commission to publish an enumerated list of approximately 65 lakh electors not included in the draft electoral roll published on August 1, during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in poll-bound Bihar.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi said the list should be complete with the individual reasons, such as death, migration, being untraceable, and duplicate registrations, for each exclusion on the draft roll.

"If, according to you, 22 lakh of the 65 lakh non-included voters are dead, why are their names not being disclosed? There is a narrative doing the rounds that family members do not know their kin have been left out as dead in the draft roll. If you put out the names in the public domain, that narrative disappears... In short, we want a 'Poonam Devi's' family in Bihar to know that her name has been deleted because she is dead," Justice Kant addressed the EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi.

> There is a narrative that family members do not know their kin have been left out as dead in the draft roll. If you put out the names in the public domain for all to see, that narrative disappears
> —JUSTICE SURYA KANT

> People have a right to know. A high degree of transparency is required to inspire voters' confidence
> —JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

The court upheld the voters' right to remain on the electoral roll in a democracy. "People have a right to know. A high degree of transparency is required to inspire voters' confidence. Put up the names of excluded electors with reasons out there for all to see," Justice Bagchi addressed the EC.

It also said electors whose names were excluded could file their objections by applying with a copy of Aadhaar. "Aadhaar is a statutorily recognised instrument of identity and residence. It can be submitted as a document," Justice Bagchi observed.

This is the first time the court has formally directed the use of Aadhaar as a proof of identity and residence in the Bihar SIR exercise.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

REACTIONS » PAGE 17

Darshan, other accused arrested after SC cancels bail

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Kannada film actor Darshan was arrested after the Supreme Court on Thursday cancelled the bail granted by the Karnataka High Court to him and six others in the Renukaswamy murder case while noting that "whosoever he may be, howsoever high, he is not above the rule of law".

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, in a judgment ordered the State authorities to immediately take the actor and the other accused into custody.

Darshan being taken into custody after his arrest, in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Legal accountability

"In a democracy governed by the rule of law, no individual is exempt from legal accountability by virtue of status or social capital. Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law and prohibits arbitrariness. It mandates that all persons – regardless of their popularity, power, or privilege – are equally subject to the law," Justice Mahadevan, who authored the judgment, observed.

The top court said given the gravity of the offence, the trial should be conducted expeditiously, and a judgment rendered on merits, in accordance with law.

"It is made clear that the observations made herein are strictly confined to the issue of bail and shall not influence the trial on merits," the court observed.

Justice Pardiwala warned the State that if any photograph or visual proof came out showing the actor misusing his influence in any way inside the prison, the authorities would have the court to reckon with.

Mechanical application

Justice Mahadevan, who authored the judgment, held that the Karnataka High Court granted the actor bail after a "mechanical application" of its discretionary powers. The apex court said the bail order was riddled with "infirmities."

The judgment said the High Court awarded bail after an uncharacteristic and detailed examination of the facts of the murder case, which was the exclusive domain of the trial court.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Flag sales down to a quarter at Bengeri unit

HUBBALLI

Flag sales at the khadi flag manufacturing unit at Bengeri, dropped for the fourth year in succession. The sale of flags has been reduced to just a quarter of the previous year.

» PAGE 11

DKS defends tunnel road

BENGALURU

Defending the proposed tunnel roads, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the government cannot afford the prohibitive cost of land acquisition, paying double rates to the property owners.

» PAGE 10

METROPLUS » PAGE 25
INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL FEATURE » 14 PAGES

Nation's flagbearers

We, the future: Children relax after taking part in a fancy dress competition on the eve of Independence Day near the Kursura Museum in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on Thursday. K.R. DEEPAK

J&K cloudburst kills 40, over 100 missing

Washed away: An area damaged in the flash flood in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. PTI

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

At least 40 people were feared dead and more than 100 missing after a flash flood triggered by a cloudburst hit Chositi, a remote village in Kishtwar in the Chenab Valley of the Jammu division, on Thursday.

Two CISF jawans were among the casualties.

Water bodies in Chositi, the last motorable pocket of the region, swelled following the cloudburst that was reported between noon and 1 p.m. Within half an hour, surging waters and rolling boulders smashed houses. At least 10 houses, temples and multiple government offices were damaged.

Officials refused to disclose the final toll as many are feared buried under the debris.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

Traffic police list 4,500 potholes for action by BBMP

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

A total of 4,500 potholes, 137 waterlogging stretches, and over 30 problematic skywalks and 67 bus bays have been listed by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and sent to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for repairs.

According to a BTP official, the civic body has taken note of the list and initiated work on 37 severely waterlogged roads, and has fixed 27 of them. The data on potholes and waterlogging spots, marked with geolocation coordinates, was compiled by the BTP over the course of a month with assistance from police personnel deployed for traffic regulation duties.

Taking the list into consideration, BBMP Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao convened a meeting with the officials concerned on Thursday. He directed them to undertake micro-planning to expedite pothole repairs, ensuring both quality and timely completion.

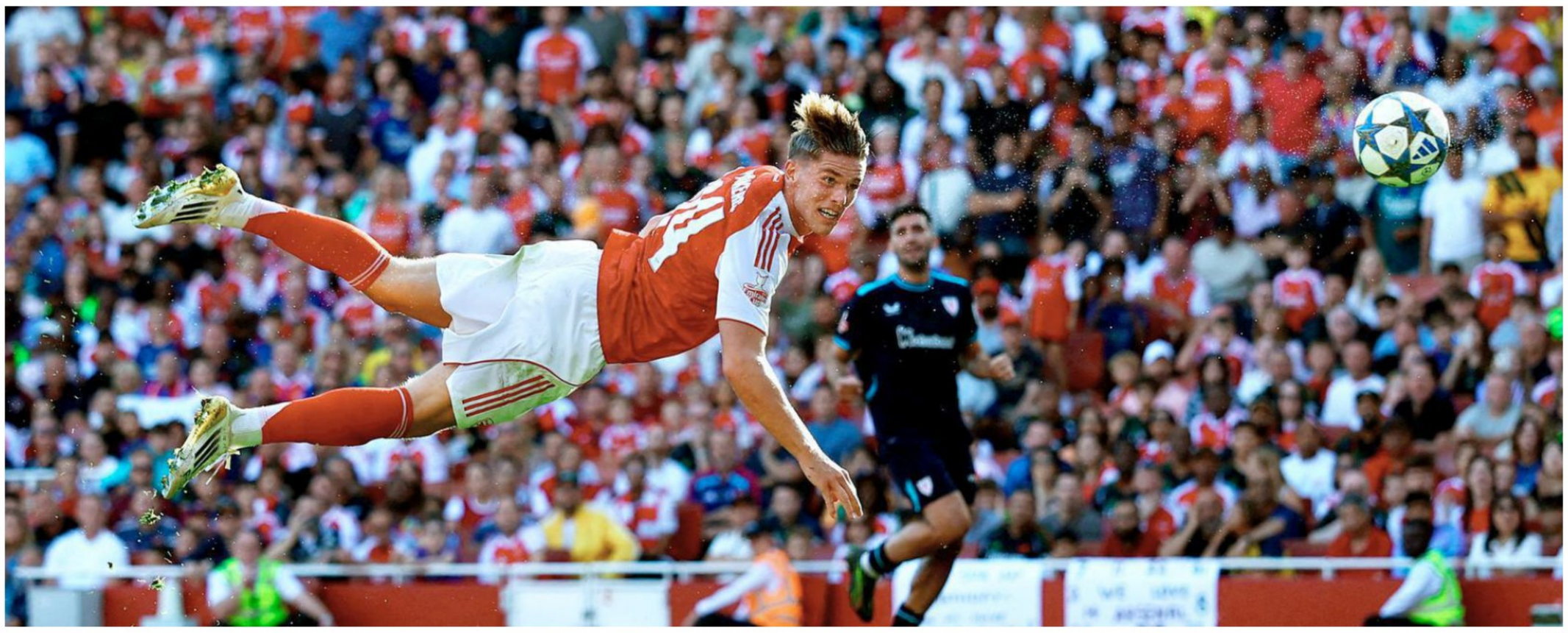
Mr. Rao further instructed officials to hold contractors accountable and to ensure repairs were carried out if potholes reappeared on roads still under the Defect Liability Period (DLP).

The BBMP also clarified that only 3,621 potholes in the list are in the civic body's limits.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 11

What to expect in this Premier League season?

Defending champion Liverpool has splashed the money; in Gyokeres, the Gunners have probably signed the one thing missing in their arsenal; City will hope for a rebound; Chelsea should carry on from its Club World Cup exploits



GETTY IMAGES

Mohamed Yunuss

Every new Premier League season throws up an array of surprises. As the new season kicks off on Friday with reigning champion Liverpool hosting AFC Bournemouth, expectations are soaring high. All 20 clubs have made promising signings, with the Premier League being the biggest spender in the top five European leagues. While Liverpool will look to defend the title after signing some marquee players, the challenge ahead is tougher than ever.

While some complained of the league becoming easier as the Reds won last season with 84 points and second placed Arsenal finished 10 behind, part of the blame was put down to the decline of Manchester City. However, it's the teams in mid-table contention who've become stronger, making it difficult for the title challengers.

The Big Six

Though the idea of the 'Big Six' has become irrelevant with the emergence of teams like Newcastle United, Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest, and many more trying to catch up to that position, in terms of money, it's the richest clubs since 2010; Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham who make up the group.

This transfer window is quite significant to prove why the 'Big Six' is still a dominant force in the league. About 39% of the intra-league moves have been these six clubs acquiring players from the rest of the teams. This is the highest share since 2010.

Arsenal, with three consecutive second place finishes, needed to fill in the last piece to the puzzle. Despite trying midfielders Kai Harvertz and Mikel Merino as strikers, and at times succeeding in the process, it was evident that it needed a traditional striker.

Now, having signed one of the promising talents in Europe, Viktor Gyokeres, it'll hope to complete the puzzle. Apart from this, the signing of Martin Zubimendi, who can control the game and provide key passes into the final third, is quite the upgrade on Thomas Partey, who departed the club this summer.

The one upgrade the Gunners would've liked to have is a left-winger who can break the defensive lines when the opposition sits on a low block. Gabriel Martinelli will likely start at that position but he finds it difficult to break the defensive lines as manager Mikel Arteta emphasises on a high-press possession-based game from his players.

Nevertheless, this Arsenal team looks even more stronger than last season on paper and only time can tell whether it can lift that prestigious trophy.

Chelsea, with refreshing energy after winning the Club World Cup, has made some crucial signings. Its recruitment strategy in the last two years have raised eyebrows and questions abound whether the amount spent on new signings has yielded fruitful results.

Well, some have succeeded and some have not. But the Blues seem to have understood that the modern game demands a lot of physical attributes and their signings have focused on players with those profiles. Romeo Lavia, Moises

REUTERS

Caicedo, and plenty more who had a higher duel winning percentage were signed.

This transfer window, Chelsea has stuck to signing young talent while there have been a lot of outgoings too. On paper, Chelsea looked like the best team last season. However, its attack heavily relied on Cole Palmer's heroics.

This year, having signed Joao Pedro, Liam Delap, and Estevao, Palmer can relax a bit. Pedro has already shown what he can offer in front of goal in the Club World Cup and in the few friendlies Chelsea played.

Apart from this, Chelsea has the strongest bench strength in the league, which can help in resting the main players in other domestic games. The one point to be noted is that this squad has a lot of youngsters – who may lack the experience, but brim with untamed energy.

Liverpool, having broken the bank on Florian Wirtz and a host of other signings, will try to replicate what it achieved last season with even more intensity. In the few glimpses from the friendlies this season, its attack looks fluid.

However, defence is a concern as it conceded 11 goals in six matches. It looks vulnerable while losing possession, making it easier for the opposition to counter in 1v1 situations. One of its back-up centre-backs Jarell Quansah left, leaving no other senior players to cover that position. Although head coach Arne Slot said that centre-back is not an area of concern, according to reports, Liverpool is working on signing two central defenders, including Crystal Palace captain Marc Guehi.

However, signing players is merely the opening act, to form chemistry and cohesion among the players is still a task to build a balanced squad.

Manchester City, the most successful club in this decade, took a back seat last season after the unfortunate injury of its

AFP

anchoring midfielder Rodri. Despite spending a whopping £180m mid-season, the second highest for a January transfer window by any club, it was not at its best. While this raised questions about Pep Guadiola's tactics, City showed significant improvement in the friendly against the Italian side Palermo.

Guardiola is a perfectionist and there is no room for mistakes. Likewise, he'll hope to change things for the club and leave the job on a high-note as his contract comes to an end by 2027.

Manchester United, the club which has been in the process of a rebuild for more than a decade, found itself in its worst nightmare last season. The new manager Ruben Amorim took time to settle in and will hope to change the course of things this season with its revamped frontline.

Top attackers like Matheus Cunha, Bryan Mbeumo, Benjamin Sesko have preferred to join the team which finished 15th in the league without any European game-time. That's how strong United's pull is. It had areas of concern on all sides of the pitch. It especially looked vulnerable with its back-three approach, making it easier for the opposition to kill on transitions. Now that United has addressed its attacking concerns, it'll have to sharpen its defence and midfield to grab a spot to play in the Champions League next season.

Tottenham, after a trophy drought of 17 years, won the Europa League last season. This gave it a boost to change its morale and mentality. However, manager Ange Postecoglou was sacked. This reflects that the management wants the club to compete for the title as it finished just one position above relegation.

The new manager Thomas Frank, who had a successful stint at Brentford, has already made a mark with commendable signings. All areas look like they are sorted and some of the potential signings, as per reports, could alter the course of the club. Spurs could be the dark horse this season.

The ascending ones

The idea of the traditonal Big Six is disrupted because of the rise of clubs like Villa, Bournemouth, Palace, Newcastle and Forest. While there are a few others who can compete, these clubs stand out for their recruitment process and strategy on the pitch.

However, these are the teams that have over-performed in the last season and may find it difficult to replicate what they have achieved. The teams have also seen more star outgoings than incomings. Well, that is the case with every other club out of the Big Six.

While Newcastle tries not to lose its players, the transfer saga of Alexander Isak may affect the training of other players. Palace and Forest, with reports of key players departing or wanting to, leaves them in a tough spot to compete at the highest level. Bournemouth has almost lost its entire backline to bigger clubs and manager Andoni Iraola has a hue task at hand to rebuild it.

Mid-table contenders

In a competition like the Premier League, even the mid-table contenders trouble the big clubs. This slate has teams like Brighton & Hove Albion, Brentford, Everton, Fulham and Wolves.

Brighton and Brentford could potentially fight for a Europa League or Conference League spot, but the the constant selling of young talent by the former and the departure of Frank to Spurs for the latter have put a cap on the two taking the next step up.

Everton, after a disappointing start last season, bounced back with the re-appointment of David Moyes mid-season. Moyes led Everton to three consecutive Premier League wins early on. This streak helped stabilise Everton's league position and created a nine-point gap from the relegation zone at one point. Fulham and Wolves have not made a mark in the transfer market yet. This could leave them on the back foot, offering an open invitation to the opposition to run the show.

The promoted teams

The Championship winner Leeds United played a possession-based game with narrow wingers. However, that might not work against the English giants and it has to make some tactical tweaks to stay in the Premier League.

Burnley, having taken the exactly opposite route of Leeds, was comfortable sitting on a low block and scoring on counters. The team played 12 goalless draws last season. This has sometimes worked for newly promoted teams. Forest under Nuno Espirito Santo relied on a similar approach. Only time will tell if this gamble keeps Burnley's Premier League torch burning.

Sunderland, after a dramatic win to secure a place in the Premier League, seems like a team that wants to capitalise on the promotion. According to *Transfermarkt*, it has spent £130 (including add-ons), making it the seventh-highest spender in this transfer window. The promoted teams who've spent big have always had fruitful results and Sunderland will look to follow that path.

THE GIST

- All 20 clubs have made promising signings with the Premier League being the biggest spender in the top five European leagues
- The teams in mid-table contention have become stronger, making it difficult for the title challengers
- Arsenal looks even more stronger than last season on paper and only time can tell whether it can lift that prestigious trophy
- Liverpool, having broken the bank on Florian Wirtz and others, will try to replicate what it achieved last season with even more intensity
- Guardiola will hope to change things for City after last season's disappointment and probably leave the job on a high-note as his contract is up by 2027

Actor Darshan, four others sent to central prison at Parappana Agrahara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After nearly 10 months of the bail period, Kannada film actor Darshan and four others were arrested by the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police for the third time. They were remanded in custody at the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara on Thursday after the Supreme Court cancelled their bail.

The police, following the apex court order, arrested Pavithra Gowda, the prime accused in the case, at her house in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and three other accused, namely Pradosh from Girinagar, Lakshman from RPC Layout, and Nagaraj from Mysuru.

All the accused were subjected to medical examination before being escorted, amidst tight security, to the judge's residence. The judge ordered them to be sent to judicial custody and posted the next hearing for August 23.

The police taking Pavithra Gowda into custody from her house in Rajarajeshwarinagar, after Supreme Court's order cancelling bail, in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The other two accused, Anukumar and Jagadeesh, arrested from Chitradurga, will be produced before the court on Friday, S. Girish, DCP, West Division, supervising the development, said.

Darshan was arrested from his wife's apartment in Hosakerehalli, where he had come to see his son. According to sources, Darshan, to avoid the media glare, changed vehicles and shifted from his SUV into another car and entered the apartment by the back door. The police, who were present at the apartment, arrested him and brought him to the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station, where the other accused were housed.

Family members, including Darshan's and Pavithra's mothers, accompanied them to the station.

Strict vigil

The prison officials have made elaborate security arrangements inside the prison to house Darshan and Pavithra Gowda, considering the earlier episode of security lapses.

The apex court, while rejecting the bail, warned of strict action against officials if the accused is found to have special privileges.

Uncertainty looms over release of *Devil* after actor's arrest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Idre Nemdi Agirbek' (You should be at peace always), the first song from Kannada actor Darshan's upcoming film, *Devil*, was supposed to release on Independence Day.

Ironically, on Thursday, Darshan's career hit the pause button again after he was arrested in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case, following the Supreme Court order cancelling the bail granted to him and the other accused.

A still from the film *Devil*.

The development puts the release of his upcoming movie *Devil* in limbo. The actor was arrested for the alleged murder of Renukaswamy in June 2024.

After he came out of prison on bail, Darshan returned to shoot for *Devil*. He took part in the third shooting schedule of the movie in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in May.

The 'Challenging Star' shot for the film in Europe, Mysuru, and Bengaluru. Recently, the makers of the movie announced on social media that shooting has been wrapped up.

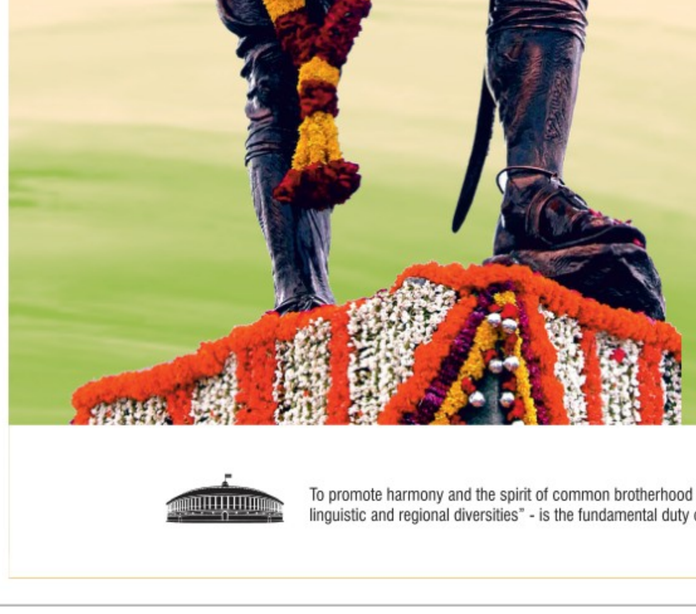
Soon after the actor's arrest, the makers announced the postponement of the release of the song *'Idre Nemdi Agirbek'* . According to reports, Darshan completed dubbing for the movie, and the makers were eyeing a December 2025 release, said industry insiders.

However, with the actor back in police custody, uncertainty looms over the release of the film.

The film also stars Mahesh Manjrekar and Sharmiela Mandre and is directed by Prakash Veer.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
N.R.Square, Bengaluru – 560002.

On the Occasion of Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna's 228th Birth Anniversary



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
Sri. Siddaramaiah and other Dignitaries will pay their respects to the Statue of Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna

Date: 15.08.2025, Friday at 10.30 AM
Venue: Premises of
Kranti Veera Sangolli Rayanna Statue
Devaraja Arasu Circle
(Khode Circle), Near Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station, Bengaluru

Happy 79th Independence Day wishes to all

To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional diversities" - is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the Country, enshrined in our Constitution.

Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala Founder

सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया
ಸೆಂಟ್ರಲ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ
Central Bank of India
www.centralbankofindia.co.in 1911 से आपके लिए "केन्द्रित" Central to you Since 1911

Happy 79th Independence Day

EXPERIENCE FINANCIAL FREEDOM WITH OUR SIMPLIFIED BANKING SOLUTIONS

Cent Grih Laxmi Loan
Make your dream home a reality
Interest rate starts from 7.35%

Cent Vehicle Loan
The smart way to own your dream car
Instant loan approval

Cent Queen
A savings account designed to empower women
Personal accident insurance up to Rs 20 lakh

Cent eeZ Mobile App
Experience the convenience of banking at your fingertips
Download the Cent eeZ app only from Google Play or App Store
For Android
Cent eeZ Ab Life Aasaan
For iOS

For more information, contact your nearest branch.
www.centralbankofindia.co.in | Follow us on Centralbankofindia | Toll Free No.:1800-30-30 | 7900123123

OFFICIAL NOTICE

Subject: Restoration and Reaffirmation of Individual Style Autonomy

In view of the increasing influence of algorithmic approvals, fluctuating seasonal trends, and unsolicited fashion counsel particularly coming in from distant relatives at social gatherings, it is deemed necessary to reiterate a fundamental and non-negotiable right:

YOU ARE FREE.

Free to wear glitter to brunch and beige to the bar.
Free to resemble a Pinterest board or a power outage.
Free to acquire sequins in solitude and sweaters in summer.
Free to alter your wardrobe as per Bengaluru's weather, your crush's relationship status, or sudden import tax drama from the West.

As per AJIO Protocol 15A: Expression of Self via Apparel, we officially uphold your right to wear your heart on your sleeve or indeed, to opt for garments that contain no sleeves whatsoever.

It is further clarified that just like the right to vote, which is an individual choice and expression, wardrobe decisions too shall be considered personal declarations, and not subject to public referendum, societal scrutiny, cultural expectation, or digital commentary.

On the occasion of India's Independence Day, AJIO formally acknowledges your absolute and inalienable right to choose.

Choose bold. Choose basic. Choose bougie. Choose bizarre.
And while AJIO sincerely hopes to be your preferred platform of expression, we remain committed to the principle of true freedom which includes the freedom to get your fashion from anywhere.

The organisation has made available QR codes from various fashion partners for you to choose from, or not. Who are we to say? Because freedom, dear reader, means having all the choices (and choosing the best one 👀)

-AJIO

Blood biomarkers might help detect chronic fatigue syndrome

An analysis of blood samples from patients of chronic fatigue syndrome has revealed substances, or 'biomarkers' indicating the condition. Researchers from Cornell University said that in the absence of lab tests for diagnosing the condition, doctors have to rely on patients reporting symptoms such as exhaustion, dizziness, disturbed sleep and 'brain fog'. From blood samples collected from patients of chronic fatigue syndrome and healthy people, the researchers sequenced RNA particles in blood plasma released due to cell damage and death. PTI

U.S. tells Vaxart to stop COVID-19 trial amid mRNA wind down

Vaxart said on Wednesday it received an order to stop work on screening and enrollment for its COVID-19 mid-stage trial, joining multiple biotech companies that have lost government funding for their vaccine programmes. The drug developer said it will keep working on its oral COVID-19 vaccine by monitoring participants already in the trial, but it will stop new enrollment. The order is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services decision to wind down mRNA vaccine development activities under its biomedical research unit. REUTERS

Over 1 in 4 diabetic adults in U.S. used GLP-1 drug last year: survey

More than one in four U.S. adults with diabetes used one of the injectable medicines that target the GLP-1 protein last year, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. The wildly popular and effective GLP-1 drugs Mounjaro from Eli Lilly and Ozempic from Novo Nordisk are approved in the United States for treating type 2 diabetes. They are sold as Zepbound and Wegovy, respectively, for weight loss and are being tested for other conditions. Use of the injectable drugs was highest among adults with diabetes aged 50-64 at 33.3%, the report said. REUTERS

Pfizer combo therapy boosts survival in bladder cancer trial

Pfizer said its cancer drug Padcev, in combination with Merck's Keytruda, significantly improved survival rates in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer. The interim results from an ongoing late-stage trial of the combination therapy showed significant improvement in event-free survival – which measures how long a patient remains free from disease recurrence – and overall survival when compared to surgery alone, the company said. Pfizer said it plans to discuss the trial results with global health authorities for potential regulatory filings. REUTERS

COVID-19's hidden toll: how the pandemic has aged our brains

A study found that people exposed to the pandemic environment showed an average brain age increase of 5.5 months compared to those studied before the COVID-19 pandemic; this acceleration was more pronounced in men and those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds

Rema Raghu
Vivek Misra
Thyagarajan S.

THE GIST

- COVID-19 may age the brain in two key ways — directly, by attacking nerve cells, and indirectly, through the psychological stress and social isolation of the pandemic
- Brain scans of COVID survivors have revealed statistically significant declines in cognitive abilities, indicating measurable changes in brain structure and function
- Adolescents assessed before and after pandemic shutdowns showed significantly higher levels of anxiety and depression

The COVID-19 pandemic left its mark on our bodies in ways we are only now beginning to understand. Beyond the familiar symptoms of fever and cough, scientists have discovered something deeply concerning: the virus and the stress of the pandemic are literally ageing our brains faster than normal.

The research shows that COVID-19 doesn't just affect our lungs – it attacks our brain health, potentially adding months or even years to our biological brain age. This discovery has profound implications for millions of people worldwide, especially as we learn more about long COVID or Post-Acute Sequalae of COVID-19 (PASC) and its lasting effects.

Think of your brain like a car. Just as a car accumulates wear and tear over time, our brains naturally age as we get older. Scientists can now measure this process using advanced brain scans to determine someone's "brain age" – how old the brain appears compared to the person's actual age.

In healthy people, brain age typically matches chronological age fairly closely. But recent studies have found something alarming: people exposed to COVID-19 or even just the pandemic environment show brains that appear significantly older than expected.

A major study using brain scan data from over 15,000 healthy adults found that people exposed to the pandemic environment showed an average brain age increase of 5.5 months compared to those studied before the pandemic. Even more concerning, this acceleration was more pronounced in men and those from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds.

Studies tracking COVID-19 survivors found that among those who weren't hospitalised, the brain still showed signs of ongoing damage, with cognitive issues persisting years after infection. ISTOCKPHOTO

The double whammy

COVID-19 appears to age brains through two main pathways. First, the virus itself is neurotropic – meaning it can invade and directly damage brain tissue. Studies show that SARS-CoV-2 has been found in neural tissues up to 230 days after infection, and immune system activation has persisted for as long as 2.5 years.

Second, the psychological stress and social isolation of the pandemic created a perfect storm for brain health. Researchers found that when people were shown faces labelled as "infected," their brains responded with elevated activity in fear and stress regions, including areas critical for memory and emotion. This suggests that fear of the virus alone can alter how our brains function.

Perhaps nowhere is this brain ageing more apparent than in long COVID patients. Studies tracking COVID survivors for three years found that among those who weren't hospitalised, the brain still showed signs of ongoing damage, with cognitive issues persisting years after infection.

Long COVID affects at least 10% of people recovering from COVID-19 infections and possibly up to 50-70% of those who were hospitalised. Hallmark symptoms include brain fog, memory problems, difficulty concentrating, and persistent fatigue – all signs that the brain is struggling to function normally.

Brain scans of COVID survivors have shown measurable drops in cognitive abilities, with statistical significance, suggesting real physical changes in brain structure and function.

Particularly troubling is evidence that young people haven't escaped this brain ageing effect. Studies of adolescents before and after pandemic shutdowns found significantly higher levels of anxiety and depression, along with brain scans showing signs of accelerated brain maturation equivalent to 5-6 months beyond their actual age. These effects varied by gender, with teenage girls showing widespread brain changes across 30 regions, including areas crucial for social and emotional processing, corresponding to about 4.2 years of accelerated ageing. These findings suggest that the social and educational disruptions of the pandemic may have lasting effects on developing brains.

The science behind the damage

The process involves several mechanisms working together.

Inflammation: The virus triggers widespread inflammation throughout the body, including the brain. This chronic inflammation damages brain cells and disrupts normal brain function.

Blood-Brain barrier breakdown: COVID-19 can damage the protective barrier that normally keeps harmful substances out of the brain, allowing inflammation and toxins to enter.

Oxygen deprivation: Even mild COVID infections can reduce oxygen levels, starving brain cells of the fuel they need to function properly. Immune system confusion: The virus can cause the immune system to attack healthy brain tissue, similar to autoimmune diseases.

The latest three-year studies show both good and concerning news. Among people who had mild COVID and weren't hospitalised, the increased risk of death disappeared after the first year, and most brain-related symptoms improved significantly over time. However, those who were hospitalised during their COVID infection, continued to show elevated death rates and persistent brain problems even three years later, with substantial ongoing health impacts. This suggests that the severity of the initial infection plays a crucial role in long-term brain health outcomes.

The news however, isn't all doom and gloom. Innovative treatment approaches are showing promise in reversing some of these effects. At specialised clinics, patients with persistent long COVID symptoms have seen significant improvements using comprehensive treatment programmes that combine advanced neurotechnology with holistic therapies.

Integrative neurorehabilitation, driven by neurotechnology and holistic therapies, can improve outcomes in individuals with long COVID. Such interventions not only alleviate symptoms but may also slow or reverse the neurocognitive aging seen in this population.

As we continue to understand COVID-19's long-term effects, it is clear that brain health must be a priority in recovery efforts. With an estimated 65 million people worldwide living with long COVID symptoms, the scale of this challenge requires coordinated medical research and treatment approaches.

The pandemic has taught us that infectious diseases can have effects far beyond their initial symptoms.

Understanding these effects is the first step toward healing. With continued research and innovative treatments, there's reason for hope that we can help mitigate the neurological impacts of the pandemic and restore brain health through multidisciplinary and personalised care paradigms.

(Dr. Rema Raghu is chief clinical officer, Buddhi Clinic, Chennai. drrema@buddhiclinic.com; Vivek Misra is senior consultant, neuromodulation and clinical sciences, Buddhi Clinic; Thyagarajan S. is research assistant, Buddhi Clinic)

The urgent need to democratise India's heart transplant programme

WORLD ORGAN DONATION DAY

Lalit Kapoor

Heart transplantation is a life-saving procedure for patients with end-stage heart failure. While medical advancements have made it a viable long-term solution with high survival outcomes, access to this treatment remains uneven, particularly in east India.

The path to democratising heart transplants lies not only in medical capability, but also in streamlining infrastructure, administrative processes, and public awareness.

India's organ transplant system functions through a structured hierarchy – State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), Regional ROTTOs, and the National NOTTO. This network is responsible for maintaining waiting lists, coordinating transplants, and matching organs to recipients.

Major challenge

However, logistical and procedural barriers often limit the timely use of available organs, especially hearts, which must be transplanted within four hours of harvest.

One of the major challenges is the retrieval and transportation of organs. Many hospitals have potential donors, but are not designated as Non-Transplant Organ Retrieval Centres (NTORCs), which means they cannot harvest organs or maintain potential donors. Combined with this is limited air connectivity in east India and long distances from hospitals to airports, creating significant delays in transporting donated hearts.

While "green corridors" created by police support ground transport, air travel infrastructure and emergency air evacuation systems need significant enhancement.

Despite systemic challenges, the potential for growth in India's transplant programme is promising. ISTOCKPHOTO

The diagnosis of brain death, a prerequisite for organ donation, is itself another critical hurdle. Although protocols are well-established, delays can occur due to procedural complexities, limited training in some centres, and the sensitive nature of initiating conversations with families about organ donation. Misunderstanding the concept of brain death and the emotional toll on families often results in missed opportunities for donation. Public education and sensitive communication are essential to increase acceptance and consent for organ donation.

Potential for growth

Despite these systemic challenges, the potential for growth in India's transplant programme is promising. In 2023, over 1.7 lakh people lost their lives in road accidents, and many of these were potential organ donors.

Yet, only 221 heart transplants were conducted nationwide, far below the estimated annual need of 50,000. Interestingly, surveys show that Indians display a high willingness to donate organs, highlighting a disconnect between public intent and systemic execution.

Bridging this gap requires multi-level interventions – funding for less privileged patients, enhanced training for healthcare professionals, active recipient-donor registries, NTORC recognition for more hospitals, and expanded transport support, including air ambulances.

Strengthening these links in the transplant chain can convert more potential donations into actual lifesaving procedures.

The democratisation of heart transplantation is not a medical challenge; it is a logistical, administrative, and social one. With proven medical expertise and strong public support, India is well-positioned to expand access and equity in transplants.

By investing in coordinated systems and infrastructure, every heartbeat lost can be turned into a second chance for another.

(Dr. Lalit Kapoor is senior consultant, cardiac surgery, Narayana R.N. Tagore Hospital, Mukundapur, Kolkata. drlalitkapoor@gmail.com)

BMTC introduces electric Vayu Vajra buses for airport services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has launched 320 fully electric air-conditioned buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, which will cater to commuters heading to the Kempegowda International Airport and other parts of the city.

The new fleet includes 235 buses for Vajra city services, and 85 for Vayu Vajra airport services.

In the first phase, 10 electric Vayu Vajra buses will be deployed from August 14, operating on 11 routes connecting different parts of Bengaluru to Kempegowda International Airport.

On August 14, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy flagged off the airport electric buses at the Bengaluru airport.

According to BMTC officials, these 12-metre, zero-emission buses are equipped with a 283 kWh battery, offering a range of up to 225 km per day. Passenger-friendly features include 35 high-back seats, wheelchair access, USB charging ports, CCTV cameras, panic buttons, kneeling mechanisms, and voice-enabled LED destination boards.

"Safety systems such as fire detection, rear camera reverse assist, and regenerative braking are also incorporated," an official said.

"Currently, 156 Vayu Vajra schedules run 1,061 one-way trips daily, covering 50,776 km, and serving about 14,000 passengers. The addition of electric buses is expected to improve comfort, reduce emission, and enhance operational efficiency," the official added.

Charging points

BMTC has established opportunity charging points at key locations, including Central Silk Board, Kadugodi Bus Stand, Depot-7, and KIA. At the airport, nine chargers with a total capacity of 240 kW have been installed at P7 parking, powered by a 1,400 KVA high-tension connection.

"The ₹1.5-crore infrastructure investment by BMTC was supported by the airport authority, which provided space free of cost," the official explained.

BMTC has an average daily ridership of 44 lakh across 6,217 buses, including 1,535 electric vehicles.

Plaint against fake officer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police on Wednesday registered another FIR against an unknown person who, posing as the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Lokayukta, called Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials threatening them with complaints.

Based on the complaint filed by Pradeep Kumar P.M., Deputy Superintendent of Police, Lokayukta, the police have registered an FIR charging the unknown impersonator under section 204 (impersonating a public servant) under BNS for further investigation.

The accused, posing as Pradeep Kumar, Deputy Superintenent of Police, called the Chief Engineer, BBMP, Yelahanka zone asking him to come and meet.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage decrease in India's edible oil imports in July

16 in per cent. India's import of edible oil fell 16% to 15.48 lakh tonnes in July, mainly due to a fall in shipments of palm oil, according to industry body SEA. The country imported 15,48,041 tonnes in July as against 18,40,062 tonnes in year-ago period. PTI

Number of roads closed in Himachal due to flash floods

396 Cloudbursts and flash floods in several districts of Himachal Pradesh caused massive destruction, with 396 roads closed for traffic. No loss of life has been reported, officials said on Thursday. PTI

Number of persons who died last week in Sudan due to cholera

40 At least 40 people have died last week in Sudan's Darfur region in the country's worst cholera outbreak in years, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Thursday. It said the vast western region had been hardest hit by the year-old outbreak. AFP

Prisoners of war exchanged by Russia and Ukraine each

84 Russia and Ukraine exchanged 84 prisoners on Thursday, both sides said. This one came on the eve of a high-level summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. counterpart Donald Trump in Alaska on Friday. AFP

Persons killed in a massive cloudburst in J&K's Kishtwar district

38 A massive cloudburst struck a mountain village in J&K's Kishtwar district on Thursday, killing 38 people, officials said. The death toll could go up as more people are believed to be trapped, officials said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Why is there no Palestine state?

Tracing the history of Israel-Palestine relations from the end of the Second World War up to the war in Gaza, why several peace agreements lie in tatters, and Israel's growing rigid stance against a two-state solution

FULL CONTEXT

Stanly Johny

The King David Hotel of Jerusalem is one of the landmarks of the contested city. Built with locally sourced pink limestone and opened in 1931 by Ezra Mosseri, a wealthy Egyptian Jewish banker, the hotel, overlooking the Old City that is holy for all three Abrahamic faiths, stands as a symbol of both Israel's Jewish roots and its bloody history.

From its earliest days under the British Mandate of Palestine, the hotel hosted royalty and prominent dignitaries. During the Mandate, the British turned the hotel's southern wing into their administrative and military offices. On July 22, 1946, members of Irgun, a right-wing Zionist militia, entered the hotel disguised as Arab workers and waiters. Their mission: plant explosives in the basement of the main building. The powerful explosion brought down the western half of the southern wing, killing at least 91 people. The bombing, the deadliest attack carried out by Zionists against the British, was one of the earliest terrorist attacks in modern West Asia.

The British found it increasingly difficult to continue their rule of Palestine after the Second World War. Seeking a way out, London turned to the UN, saying it wanted to vacate the Mandate. In 1947, the UN General Assembly decided to set up a Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), which proposed to divide Palestine into 'an independent Arab State, an independent Jewish State, and the City of Jerusalem'. The Jewish Agency accepted the plan, while Arab nations opposed the partition. On May 14, 1948, on the eve of the expiry of the British Mandate, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum (today known as Independence Hall). David Ben-Gurion, leader of the Jewish Agency, declared the establishment of the state of Israel from the podium.

Independence, *Nakba*

The next day, the armies of four countries – Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, and Iraq – entered Palestine and clashed with the Jewish army, triggering the first Arab-Israeli war. The war continued for a year, and when a ceasefire was signed, Israel was controlling more territories of historic Palestine than even the UN plan offered for the Jewish state.

For Israel, it was the 'war of independence', but for Palestinians, it was *Nakba* (catastrophe). Roughly 7,50,000 Palestinians were violently displaced from their homes and lands by Zionist militias. Thousands of Palestinians were killed. Hundreds of Arab villages and towns were depopulated and destroyed. West Asia suddenly looked like a different region. In 1967, during the Six-Day War, Israel captured the entire Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria. The UN Partition plan promised 55% of historical Palestine to the Jewish state; Israel controlled some 75% after the 1948 war, and after the 1967 war, the whole of Palestine came under Israel's control.

What is the Green Line?

Palestinians today demand an independent state based on the 1967 border (Green Line) – which means the whole of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Different Palestinian factions, including Fatah, which runs the Palestine Authority based in the West Bank, and Hamas, which is the main force in the Gaza Strip, have either directly or indirectly accepted the 1967 border.

Seeking peace: Palestinians today demand an independent state based on the 1967 border. AFP

Israel, in the past, had committed itself to the two-state solution, but it has never made its position clear on the border. In recent years, Israel's position has further shifted to the right, with its rulers, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, publicly disowning the two-state plan.

After the 1967 war, Israel for years refused to accept Palestinian nationalism. The first Israeli recognition of Palestinian nationalism came in the 1978 Camp David agreement. Under the agreement, signed five years after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel agreed to withdraw completely from the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, also agreed, under the Framework for Peace in the Middle East agreement, to abolish Israel's military rule over the West Bank and Gaza, and establish a Palestinian self-governing authority with elections and local policing. The Framework Agreement was not immediately implemented. But it set the agenda for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

The outbreak of the first intifada brought Israel under greater pressure and pushed the momentum in favour of the Palestinians. On November 15, 1988, Yasser Arafat read out a declaration in Algiers, Algeria, proclaiming the birth of 'a state of Palestine in our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem'. Weeks later, at least 100 UN member states, including India, acknowledged the declaration of the state of Palestine.

Israel faced two major challenges at this juncture. One was the growing difficulties in governing the Palestinian territories amid continuing protests. The other was the global recognition the Palestinian leadership was drawing. The Palestine Liberation Organization's policy was also undergoing changes. If earlier it called for 'the liberation' of the whole of historical Palestine, it was now sending signals of compromise for a deal with Israel. The peace bid gained momentum after Yitzhak Rabin, of Labour, became Prime Minister in 1992. Rabin joined secret talks in Oslo based on the Framework Agreement. On September 9, 1993, both parties exchanged Letters of Mutual Recognition, signed by Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat. Four days later, on September 13, 1993, Rabin and Arafat shook hands in Washington in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton and signed the Oslo Accord I. Rabin was forthright in his message to the Palestinians. "Let me say to you, the Palestinians: we are destined to live together, on the same soil in the same land," he said.

According to the Oslo II Agreement, reached between the Palestinian leadership and Israel in 1995, the West Bank was divided into three areas – A, B, and C. Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and some towns and villages that do not border Israeli settlements are in Area A, which comprises some 18% of the West Bank. Area B, which comprises around 22% of the territory, is under Palestinian civil administration, while Israel retains exclusive security control. Area C is the largest division in the West Bank, comprising some 60% of the territory; it is under full Israeli civil administration and security control. The Oslo Accords were initial agreements aimed at taking some preliminary steps towards resolving the Palestine question in five years. But the resolution never came.

The permanence of conflict

In the history of Israel and Palestine, there is always a U-turn after a serious push for peace. On November 4, 1995, Prime Minister Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist. His immediate successor, Shimon Peres, called for an election hoping that he could mobilise the peace dividend and take the Oslo process further. But in the 1996 election, Likud returned to power and Mr. Netanyahu became Prime Minister for the first time.

Mr. Netanyahu initially refused to honour the commitments of the past governments. The rise of Hamas, which never accepted the Oslo process, and suicide attacks by Palestinian militants, further complicated the peace process. When the interim five-year period since the Oslo agreements was over in May 1999, a comprehensive agreement between Israel and Palestine was still elusive. The Palestinian authority was running parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Israel, instead of directly ruling over West Bank and Gaza, started controlling territories indirectly, and continued to build Jewish settlements on Palestinian lands. The status of Jerusalem and the right of return of Palestinian refugees remained the crux of the problem with no meaningful efforts from either side to settle the issues.

President Clinton tried to revive the stalled peace process in 2000 in a Camp David summit in which he hosted both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barack and Arafat. All key components of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict came up for discussions during the summit. But the summit collapsed as the two sides failed to agree on the status of Jerusalem and the right of return. There were several attempts to revive peace talks since the failure of the second Camp David negotiations, but none of them has taken off.

October 7, 2023 and after

Israel's record shows that it made limited concessions only in the face of external pressure or Palestinian violence. During the Suez war, Israel was forced to pull out of Sinai amid threats and pressure tactics from both American President Dwight Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1956. In the late 1970s, constant pressure from the Carter administration, and also the growing threat perception from Egypt following the Yom Kippur War prompted Israel to come to Camp David and finally sign both the Sinai pull-out and Framework Agreements. In 1993, the Oslo process was triggered by the First Intifada. Ariel Sharon's Gaza disengagement happened against the backdrop of the Second Intifada.

During the years that followed the Second Intifada, Israel thought the *status quo* was manageable. The Palestinians were a divided lot. The West Bank was run by Fatah and Gaza by Hamas. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas lacked the charisma and command of Arafat. The Palestinian authority was flush with corruption. There was no organised resistance in the West Bank. There was no international pressure to make peace. And Arabs were ready to sidestep the Palestine question to make bilateral peace with Israel. The Israelis thought they could continue the occupation without consequences.

Then came the October 7 attack.

Did the Palestinians achieve anything from the October 7 attack? Initial signs suggest that Hamas's attack and Israel's subsequent war on Gaza have further set back the push for a two-state solution. But at the same time, the war in Gaza brought the Palestine question back to the centre of West Asia's geopolitics. Israel wanted to localise the Palestine question, and Hamas has re-regionalised it. When Israel launched the war on Gaza, it said it would dismantle Hamas. But after 22 months of fighting, Hamas is far from destroyed. Israel, on the other side, faces serious allegations of genocide and mass starvation, which have prompted more countries in the West, all of them Israel's allies, to offer recognition to Palestinian sovereignty.

If anything, October 7 and its aftermath are a reminder that occupation is not a solution. Israel wants to continue the occupation without consequences. But Palestinian militants seem determined to keep fighting, with whatever available tactics they have, including the means of terror.

Unless the Palestine question is addressed, neither Israel nor West Asia is going to enjoy durable peace and stability. And a lasting and just solution to the Palestine question is either the creation of a state of Palestine, with all the rights other nation states enjoy, or the acceptance of the Palestinian people as equal citizens in a single state that's purged of its apartheid ideology and architecture. Such a settlement looks remote today. But the alternative is the unsustainable and untenable path of violence.

THE GIST

- The Israel-Palestine conflict has deep historical roots, marked by wars, the displacement of Palestinians, and failed peace processes.
- The October 7 attack by Hamas and Israel's war on Gaza have weakened prospects for a two-state solution but pushed the Palestine question back to the centre of West Asia's geopolitics.
- Lasting peace requires either an independent state of Palestine or equal citizenship in a single state, but current trends point toward continued violence and instability.

India's No.1 Dealer
VASANTH & CO

Independence Day Wishes

FREEDOM SALE

UP TO 50%* DISCOUNT

(select model)

Buy 65" LED TV and get

Party Star Speaker

Buy Side by Side Refrigerator and get

Air Fryer

LOWEST PRICE NEVER EVER OFFERED BEFORE! EASY EMI!!

BAJAJ FINSERV Upto ₹10000 CASH BACK*
LED TV / AC / Refrigerator / Washing Machine / Mobile & Laptop
For purchase of product ₹15000 and above

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES Upto ₹11000 CASH BACK*
LED TV / AC / Refrigerator / Washing Machine / Dishwasher / Furniture / Mobile & Laptop
For purchase of product ₹20000 and above

IDFC FIRST Bank Upto ₹22500 CASH BACK*
LED TV / AC / Refrigerator / Washing Machine / Dishwasher / Mobile & Laptop
For purchase of product ₹25000 and above

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank Upto ₹4000 Instant Discount*
LED TV / Refrigerator / Washing Machine / Mobile & Laptop
For purchase of product ₹25000 and above

TVSCREDIT Upto 15% CASH BACK* (Max. ₹ 10000)
LED TV / AC / Refrigerator / Washing Machine / Dishwasher / Microwave Oven / Mobile
For purchase of product ₹25000 and above

UP TO ₹6,000 INSTANT DISCOUNT* SBI card
#Min. Trxn.: ₹25,000; Max. Discount: ₹6,000 per card; Also valid on EMI Trxns.; Validity: 16 Jul - 17 Aug 2025. T&C Apply.

Debit / Credit Cards % NO COST EMI + upto ₹26000 Instant Discount* (Select Bank)

Independence Day Special Offer - Home Appliances

Buy 55" LED TV and get

Smart Watch + Bar Speaker

Buy 43" LED TV and get

Bar Speaker

SONY BRAVIA 5 NEW Big on entertainment, easy to love.

Google TV · XR Backlight Master Drive · Studio Calibrated · IMAX ENHANCED

Available Sizes:
• 248cm (98) • 215cm (85) • 189cm (75) • 164cm (65) • 139cm (55)

Range starts from Rs.1,44,990/-

SPECIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFERS*

3 YEARS WARRANTY | INSTANT CASHBACK upto Rs. 25,000/- | 1 EMI FREE | UP TO 30% OFF | TV + SOUNDBAR COMBO OFFER SAVE UPTO Rs. 69,990/- BUY NOW AT Rs. 2,995/-*Conditions apply

Buy Air Conditioner and get FREE! Table Fan

Buy DC Refrigerator and get FREE! 3 Ltr Cooker
EMI ₹994 onwards

EMI ₹1499 Buy Frost Free Refrigerator and get FREE! Bullet Mixie

Buy Front Loading Washing Machine EMI ₹1950 and get FREE! Oven Toaster

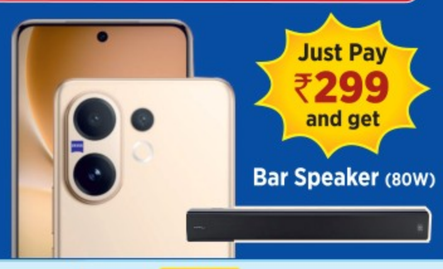
Buy Top Loading Washing Machine EMI ₹1499 and get FREE! Multi Kettle

Dolby Digital Soundbar (Bluetooth-2.1 Channel)
Vasanth Price ₹6690 Only | 61% OFF
Price ~~₹16990~~

Protect your Products Get upto 5 Years with VASANTH CARE Extended Warranty*

Mobile & Laptops At Lowest Price Easy EMI

vivo V60 Co-engineered with ZEISS
ZEISS Portrait So Pro
Pre-Book Now



Just Pay ₹299 and get Bar Speaker (80W)

EMI ₹2958 iPhone 16 128 BG
₹4000 Cashback* ICICI Bank SBI
Vasanth Price ₹ 70990

EMI ₹4166 iPhone 15 Pro Max
Vasanth Price ₹ 99990

EMI ₹7292 SAMSUNG Galaxy Z Fold 7 (12 + 256 GB)
₹12000 Instant Cashback* HDFC BANK

EMI ₹3750 SAMSUNG Galaxy S25 Series
₹10000 Instant Cashback* HDFC BANK

EMI ₹1667 oppo Reno 14 (5G) (8 + 256 GB)
FREE! Speaker + Neck Band

EMI ₹1417 Redmi Note 14 (5G) (6 + 128 GB)
FREE! Air Pods
₹1000 Instant Cashback* Select Credit Card

EMI ₹3246
13th Gen i3-1335U / 8GB RAM / 512GB SSD / 15.6" Win 11 MSO 24 / FHD / Intel UHD
Price ₹ 38950
FREE! Air Pods + Bag

Independence Day Special Offer 1947 Kitchen Appliances Combo Offer

THANGAM 3 Jar Mixie + Shaker Bottle
Price ~~₹4859~~ Vasanth Price ₹1947

BOSCH Air Fryer 7.2 Ltr
FREE! Hand Blender worth ₹1250
Price ~~₹18545~~
EMI ₹1947

3 Ltr Pressure Cooker + Electric Kettle + 24 Pcs. Dinner Set
Price ~~₹5039~~ Vasanth Price ₹1947

CROMPTON Ceiling Fan + Iron Box
Price ~~₹3549~~ Vasanth Price ₹1947

2 Burner Glass Top Gas Stove
Price ~~₹4849~~ Vasanth Price ₹1947

BUTTERFLY Wet Grinder + Electric Kettle
Price ~~₹9632~~ Vasanth Price ₹4550

Water Heater At Lowest Price
15 Ltr ABS Body
Price ~~₹11900~~ Vasanth Price ₹6190

Independence Day Special Combo Offer

32" (81.28 cm) Smart LED TV + Direct Cool Refrigerator + Washing Machine + Wet Grinder + 3 Jar Mixie + 2 Burner Gas Stove + Pressure Cooker + Iron Box + Electric Kettle + 3 Seater Sofa + Dressing Table

Price ~~₹86398~~ Vasanth Price ₹49990

Furniture At Lowest Price Easy EMI

Buy 5 Seater Sofa Take Home a Teapoy FREE!

Buy Bero Take Home a Bullet Mixie FREE!

Buy Dinning Table Take Home a 24 Pcs Dinner Set FREE!

Buy King / Queen Cot Take Home a Table Fan
Just Pay ₹999

Peps Mattress INDIA'S FAVOURITE SPRING MATTRESS
TRIPLE ZERO OFFER 000 • DOWN PAYMENT • PROCESSING FEE • COST EMI

Godrej interio Just Pay ₹1 and Take Home GODREJ FURNITURE Balance in EMI.

*Conditions apply, Offers till stocks last, Images shown are indicative only.

SINCE 1978 Quality Trust

LG | SAMSUNG | SONY | Panasonic | Haier | Whirlpool | Godrej | DAIKIN | BLUE STAR | IFB | Carrier | GENERAL | VOLTAS | MITSUBISHI | LLOYD | LIEBHERR | Preethi | BOSCH | PHILIPS | TOSHIBA | Electrolux | TCL | BAJAJ | Butterfly | Crompton | Vidiem | USHA | HITACHI | ONIDA | FABER | SOWBAGHYA | ULTRA | HAVELLS | PRESTIGE | Pigeon | KAFF | KENT | Premier | Prestige | VENUS | THANGAM | dyson | iPhone | vivo | oppo | motorola | lenovo | DELL | hp | acer | boAt | FIREBOLTT | noise

93335 93335

EXCHANGE OFFER AVAILABLE For Exchange your Products. Call - 9042899712

www.vasanthandco.in

Scan QR Code to know more Offer

A BG-BGE

IN THE LIMELIGHT

National Film Awards: politics, propaganda, and the plot

The country's awards for cinematic excellence carry a political undertone; this year is no different, with films like '*The Kerala Story*' reflecting the ruling dispensation's narrative, while sidelining critically acclaimed works

Anuj Kumar

Like a Bollywood potboiler, the plot of the National Film Awards gets thicker with each passing year. Why did the jury pick the polarising narrative of *The Kerala Story* for two awards? Why did the jury wake up to the talent of Shah Rukh Khan after 33 years?

The Kerala Story courted controversy for its portrayal of women in Kerala being forcefully converted and recruited by the Islamic State. While those who questioned the decision of bestowing the Best Director award to Sudipto Sen argued that the film pandered to "majoritarian propaganda with a hate-filled agenda disguised as cinema," Ashutosh Gowarikar, the head of the jury, felt Sen conveyed a "difficult topic with clarity", with deep research into events that must have happened.

The Supreme Court-mandated disclaimer for the film stated that it is a "fictionalised account of events" and that there is no "authentic data" to support the claim that 32,000 women were converted to Islam in Kerala.

However, the makers have reiterated that the film is based on real events and "is not based on isolated or imagined incidents."

While the Government of India presents the National Film Awards, they don't necessarily represent a singular government view on cinema. The awards are aimed at recognising and celebrating cinematic excellence across languages and genres, promoting unity and integrity through the appreciation of different cultures.

A still from *Jawan*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A political edge

Increasingly, however, the awards are seen as a platform to endorse those taking the ruling dispensation's line of thought to the audience. A significant chunk of the audience votes for the BJP. It makes business sense for film producers to give their political thoughts and social fears a cultural context. Besides, it provides soft power to spin doctors to set the narrative on social media. Drab WhatsApp forwards get livened up with persuasive visuals. One of the cinematic devices to create fear or hate for a group of people is by crafting a narrative that says, 'the other is after our women.'

At different points in cinematic history, it has been effectively used to build social narratives against African Americans and Jews. If a section of the Hindi film audience feels that Kerala is reeling under the so-called 'Love Jihad', then – even if the numbers are exaggerated and the craft is underwhelming – the emotional impact of *The Kerala Story* is substantial.

When *The Kashmir Files* bagged the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration in 2021, many felt they were living in an alternate reality because in the past, films like *Garm Hava*, *Tamas*, and *Dharm* had won this prestigious honour, whose name has now been changed to Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social and Environmental Values.

However, when put into context, the award appears to be in line with the present government's policy on Kashmir, where the abrogation of Article 370 is seen as aligning with its concept of national integration.

Similarly, the jury's nod for *The Kerala Story* doesn't come as a surprise. Like *The Kashmir Files*, *The Kerala Story* has been openly backed by the top leadership of the BJP and was declared tax-free in BJP-ruled States. Like the story of forced conversion depicted in the film, it appears to be a tool to brainwash the audience into believing a one-sided narrative.

Targeting a faith

The movie doesn't question the Islamic State's silence on the Palestine issue. While the makers claim they are not Islamophobic, they use creative licence to target Islam by presenting it as a religion whose very value system prepares followers for extremist ideas. Ostensibly, dramatising the WhatsApp forwards, the film sees a sinister intent in every Hindu-Muslim interaction.

Gowarikar reportedly considered box office performance, social impact, and reach when deciding winners. Of course, there are films and performances where artistic merit, social impact, and popular appeal truly come together. This year, we have *12th Fail*, where Vidhu Vinod Chopra and Vikrant Massey conjure up this rare meeting of accessibility and craftsmanship, where Atal Bihari Vajapyee's *haar nahin manoonga, raar nahin thanooga (won't give up, won't hold a grudge)* is aesthetically integrated into the storyline as an anathema to social inequities.

However, when it comes to choosing between artistic merit and box office numbers, common sense suggests the jury should prioritise the former.

Past vs present controversies

The National Film Awards are not new to public scrutiny. But during Congress rule or Congress-supported governments, controversies were less about explicit political propaganda and more about systemic issues such as nepotism, jury bias, and a lack of transparency.

In 1976, during a period of intense political turmoil, Mrinal Sen's *Mrigaaya* won the National Film Award. A stark critique of capitalist power during the Emergency, Utpalendu Chakraborty's *Chokh* won the Best Film in 1982. The following year, G.V. Iyer's Sanskrit biopic *Adi Shankaracharya* bagged the top honour.

In the last decade, the distinction between Best Film and the Best Film Offering Wholesome Entertainment has become increasingly blurred. This year again, critically acclaimed films like *Joram* and *Three of Us* could not impress the jury.

The criteria behind nominating an actor in a particular category have also been questioned. Seasoned actors Urvashi and Vijayaraghavan have been honoured with Best Supporting Actor awards for *Ullozhukku* and *Pookkaalam*. In the Kerala State Film Awards, Vijayaraghavan won the Best Character Actor, while Urvashi bagged Best Actress for the same performances.

More importantly, the jury often tilts towards the stature of the actor rather than his immediate performance. A link is usually drawn between the head of the jury and the actor. Ajay Devgn won the nod for *Zakhm* when Prakash Jha headed the jury. Ramesh Sippy led the jury when Amitabh Bachchan was selected for *Paa* and *Piku*, and Priyadarshan was at the helm when Akshay Kumar won the coveted award for *Rustom*.

Sippy once told this journalist that one can question the choice but should not question the integrity of the jury. So, when Gowarikar announced Shah Rukh Khan's name, it seemed as if the director was correcting a wrong, as the actor had been denied the award for *Swades*, and Saif Ali Khan was surprisingly found more deserving for *Hum Tum*. It was a time when Sharmila Tagore was at the helm of affairs at the Central Board of Film Certification.

The Jawan factor

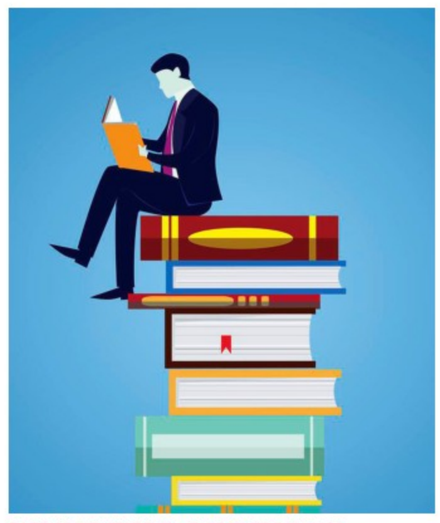
Curiously, if the political messaging of *The Kerala Story* serves the purpose of the ruling dispensation, the theme of Atlee's *Jawan* questions the political climate. Shah Rukh plays Azaad, the son of a soldier, Vikram Rathore, who lectures the audience to ask those seeking their votes, "What will they do for you?" Drawing from eminent Urdu poet Waseem Barelvi's popular couplet, he sings, *"Usulon Pe Jahan Aanch Aaye Takrana Zaroori, Banda Zinda Ho to Nazar Aana Zaroori Hai"* (When principles are at stake, one must fight. This battle is what keeps you alive).

There are strands of stolen EVMs, false charges against a Muslim doctor, and a villain desperate to monetise the country's natural resources, because he feels he can circumvent the democratic process. However, it may be a safer bet than Shah Rukh's *Pathaan*, which is a little more nuanced in its depiction of dissent, and the villain is a rogue army man.

Additionally, *Jawan* appears like a potent option to keep Prithviraj Sukumaran out of contention despite a brilliant turn in *Aadujeevitham: The Goat Life*. Interestingly, the film questions the practice of slavery in West Asia, where the enslaver and the enslaved person follow the same religion, but, unlike *The Kerala Story*, director Blessy makes it about humanity rather than a faith.

Or, as Urvashi has suggested, Prithviraj might have been "snubbed due to the *Empuraan* controversy," where, as a director, he dug up the ghost of the Gujarat riots. In contrast, Shah Rukh allegedly played a diplomatic role in national interest without claiming credit.

Our films may be losing depth, but our awards continue to follow a layered script!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

HOW do you pronounce a..r.o..m..a?

The two a(s) in the word are pronounced like the 'a' in China. The 'ro' in the second syllable rhymes with the words low, mow and go.

And the stress is on the second syllable, I suppose.

That's right. It's pronounced aROma. Do you know what it means?

It means smell, doesn't it?

Well, yes. But there is a difference between aroma and smell. You see a smell can be either good or bad. It can be pleasant or unpleasant. For example. I can say, Gopa hadn't taken a bath in three days and he smelled.

Meaning he smelled terrible.

Exactly! And then there's that famous line from Shakespeare. A rose by... any other name would smell as sweet.

Good, you remembered!

I can never forget that line. My English teacher used to say it all the time. Now tell me what aroma means.

O.k. Unlike the word smell, the word aroma is always associated with a pleasant smell. When I was young, I always used to get up to the aroma of fresh coffee.

Your mother used to make it, I suppose.

Now you have to get up to the smell of dirty dishes.

True!

I get up to the aroma of agarbathis. Can I say that?

You certainly can. But not all agarbathis smell good. Some of them stink.

In those cases. I cannot use aroma, right?

That's right. You can use the word aroma only when you refer to a pleasant smell.

I love the aroma of masala dosa. My dad plus my mother love to visit hotels which...

...my dad plus my mother loves to visit hotels. Not my dad plus my mother love to visit hotels.

Wait a minute. I can say my dad and my mother love to visit hotels. right?

That's right. But you see when you say, a man plus his wife, it is not the same as a man and his wife. The word plus is not the same as and in the second sentence.

They don't mean the same?

No, they don't. I was reading about the use of plus the other day and the author argued that plus doesn't mean the same thing as and. In the sentence a man plus his daughter, plus is the equivalent of with.

So what would you say? A man, with his daughter, was jogging in the park or, a man, with his daughter, were jogging in the park?

I would say, a man, with his daughter, was jogging in the park.

Exactly! Therefore you should say, a man plus his daughter was jogging in the park.

A man plus his wife has arrived.

That's right! Here's another example. The evidence plus the witness' testimony was crucial in sending the killer to jail.

I think I understand now.

Published in The Hindu on September 2, 1997

THE DAILY QUIZ

Apart from being the day independent India was born, August 15 is also the anniversary of a different kind of freedom — one involving money

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The Bretton Woods system, established in 1944, created two major institutions: the IMF, to oversee exchange rates and promote monetary cooperation, and the _____, the first institution of what is now the World Bank Group and intended to fund post-war rebuilding in Europe. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The system encouraged countries to depend on the U.S. dollar as the central reserve currency, itself pegged to gold at $35 per ounce. Name the national currency that the dollar succeeded in this capacity around the mid-20th century.

QUESTION 3

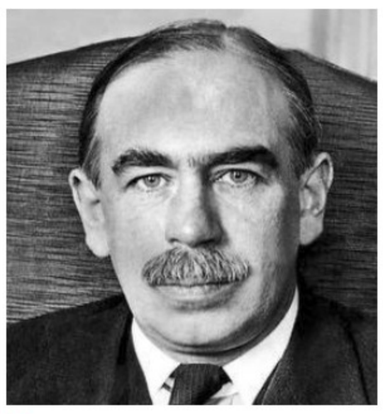
In one dramatic episode in the final years of the Bretton Woods system, and a time of great doubt about the U.S.'s ability to honour its commitment to hold an ounce of gold at $35, French president Georges Pompidou sent a warship to New York to bring France's gold holdings at the Federal Reserve Bank back. Name the warship.

QUESTION 4

On August 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon cancelled the ability of the U.S. dollar to be converted to gold.
What was the collective name of the effects of this measure, which led to Nixon's re-election in 1972 but led to the 1973 recession?

QUESTION 5

Name the agreement that, once the Bretton Woods system collapsed, officially rewrote the IMF's rules: from enforcing fixed rates to overseeing exchange-rate stability and providing policy advice. The agreement also legitimised the modern system of largely floating currencies.



Visual Question:
Name this English economist who, alongside E.F. Schumacher, proposed a supranational currency called 'bancor' in the early 1940s to prevent any single national currency from becoming the world's main reserve asset. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Which legal enactment by the British Parliament formalised the Partition of India, and when did it receive Royal Assent? **Ans: The Indian Independence Act 1947, which received Royal Assent on July 18, 1947**
2. On what dates did the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan officially come into existence? **Ans: They legally came into being at midnight between August 14-15, 1947**
3. Approximately how many people were displaced during the Partition, and what are the estimated fatalities? **Ans: Between 12 and 20 million people were displaced; fatalities estimates vary between 200,000 and 2 million**
4. Name the plan agreed upon by the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh representatives, and with whom was this agreement made? **Ans: The June 3 Plan, also known as the Mountbatten Plan, was agreed with Viceroy Lord Mountbatten**
5. What did the 'Evacuee Property Law' mean to address? **Ans: Management and redistribution of properties abandoned by refugees who migrated across the border**
Visual: Who chaired the Boundary Commissions and what was his background? **Ans: Sir Cyril Radcliffe, a British lawyer**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan | Harilakshmi M | Pranab Biswas | Dhanya Kambrath | Sujit Yadav

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Word of the day

Ineluctable:
impossible to avoid or evade

Synonyms: necessary, unstoppable, definite

Usage: *Growing older is an ineluctable process.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/ineluctablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnɪlʌktəbl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

FREEDOM Fest

15 - 17 AUGUST

FLAT 30% OFF

*T&C APPLY.

ON ALL PRODUCTS

SALWAR SUITS • SAREES • KURTAS • KURTA SETS • DRESS MATERIALS • TUNICS • KAFTANS

Follow us on: sochstories | Shop online at www.soch.com | For franchising opportunities, email us at franchise@soch.com

120 Years of Trust

केनरा बैंक
Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking

Together We Can

शिक्षित भारत विकसित भारत

79TH HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY
15TH AUGUST 2025

Our Commitment To Empower India's Young Minds

Canara Bank
Dr. AMBEDKAR VIDYA JYOTHI SCHOLARSHIP
Scholarship to Meritorious SC/ST Girl Students

For Meritorious Girl Students from Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes

On the occasion of India's 79th Independence Day, Canara Bank is proud to support SC/ST girl students across India through this impactful CSR initiative.

Scholarship Distribution Venue: Head Office | 26 Circle Offices | 177 Regional Offices | 7,660+ Identified Branches Across India

*T&C Apply

1 Bank Number 1800 1030 (24 x 7 in 13 Languages) | www.canarabank.com

National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal https://cybercrime.gov.in | National Cyber Crime Helpline- 1930

A Unit of RajaRajeswari Group of Institutions

RajaRajeswari College of Engineering

Approved by UGC under VTU, Approved by AICTE *Now we are* Autonomous Institution

siliconindia Education TOP 100 ENGINEERING COLLEGES IN INDIA - 2021 | NAAC A+ | NBA NATIONAL BOARD OF ACCREDITATION CSE, ECE, ISE

Top 10 Colleges in Karnataka* | *As per Times of India Review

CET CODE E145 | COMED-K CODE E099 | PGCET CODE T858 | PGCET CODE MBA : B253 MCA : C464

ADMISSION OPEN 2025-26

Trending Courses

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning

Computer Science Engineering
(Iot & Cyber Security Inc Block Chain Technology)

Computer Science & Design

Computer Science & Engineering

Information Science Engineering

OTHER COURSES

Robotics & Automation, ECE, EEE,

CV & M.Tech (CS), BBA, BCA, MBA & MCA

6th Semester Onwards

QSpiders Jumpstart your career with pre-placement training

MoUs for "Indian Over seas Opportunities"

Ranked 31st In All India Level

Ranked 8th In South India

3000+ Students on Campus

1800+ Placements

19+ Glorious Years of Excellence in Education

MoUs for Indian Overseas Opportunities

30Lakhs Highest Package offered

6 LPA Average Package

admission@rrce.org | www.rrce.org | 9008845678 / 9900058214

#14, Ramohalli Cross, Kumbalgodu, Mysore Road, Bengaluru – 560 074.

Warm wishes to every Indian

on the occasion of

79th Independence Day

"Today, our nation marks 78 years as an independent nation. To honor the vision of our great freedom fighters and national heroes, my government has placed special focus on strengthening the state's education, healthcare and employment sectors. At the same time, we have adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption and the menace of drugs."

Bhagwant Singh Mann

Chief Minister, Punjab

1092/13/2025-26/2257

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

Remembering
Karnataka's very own Karmayogi
on his Birth Anniversary.

Dr. R N Shetty
Founder - R N S Group of Companies
15.08.1928 - 17.12.2020

A visionary committed to
Purpose, Perfection and Performance.

Family, Friends and Staff of
R N S Group of Companies

Janmashtami celebrations at ISKCON

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ISKCON Bengaluru, will celebrate 'Janmashtami' on August 15 and 16 at Hare Krishna Hill in Rajajinagar, Vaikuntha Hill in Vasanthapura on Kanakapura Road, and KTPO in Whitefield.

ISKCON has requested devotees visiting the Rajajinagar temple to plan their visit in the morning or before 4 p.m. To ensure a smooth darshan experience, senior citizens and children are encouraged to complete their visit before noon.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE IIIRD ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGE FAMILY COURT, BANGALORE
M.C. No. 4260/2018 c/w
M.C. No. 2386/2019

PETITIONER APARNA IYER V/S RESPONDENT SUHAS SURESH CHOULGERE

NOTICE TO PROPOSED RESPONDENT NO. 2 TO,
MS. BHUVANESHWARI VEERAIAH
ALIAS BHUVANA AGE NOT KNOWN, DAUGHTER OF MR. VEERIAH PRESENTLY RESIDING AT #11, NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ROAD,V.V PURAM, BANGALORE-560 004

AND PERMANENT RESIDENT OF #92, (361/2A), 3RD CROSS, APPAREDDY PALYA, INDIRANAGAR, BANGALORE-560 038

Whereas the Petitioner in the aforementioned case has filed the above petition U/s 13 (1) (ia) of the Hindu Marriage, 1955, for a decree of Divorce against the Respondent and other reliefs. Whereas the Petitioner has filed an application to implead you, Ms. Bhuvaneshwari Veeriah alias Bhuvana as Respondent No.2. You are hereby summoned to appear in person before the Hon'ble IIIrd Additional Principal Family Judge Family Court at Bengaluru. Take Notice that in default of your appearance on the day of 12th of September, 2025 at 11:00 a.m., the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this the day of 14th, July, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sr. Sheristedar
Family Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioner
AZHAR MEER & ASSOCIATES
No. 202, 2nd Floor, 5/2, Kay Arr Trumph Tower, Eagles Street, Langford Town, Bengaluru-560 025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public is hereby informed that our client, **Mr. Satarasi Mallikarjuna Choudary,** had instituted A.A. No. 6/2025 before the Hon'ble XXVII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge: CCH 9, at Bangalore against **Mr. Aravind T.M. and Mr. Shricharan** (the **"Respondents"**). By his Order dated 28th March 2025 (29.03.2025), the Hon'ble XXVII Additional City Civil Judge was pleased to restrain the Respondents, their agents, employees, workmen, assignee, heirs, successors or anyone claiming through or under them from alienating, encumbering, or creating any third-party rights claims or interest over the Schedule Property till the dispute is adjudicated by the Arbitral Tribunal. Any person(s) engaging with the Respondents for any transaction pertaining to the Schedule Property shall be doing so at their own risk and the same would in no manner bind our client, and such persons shall also be liable to face the legal consequences thereof.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of vacant agricultural land bearing Sy. No,62, **measuring 31 Acres 27 guntas and 17 guntas of kharab, situated at Madappanahalli Village, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk (earlier Bangalore North Taluk), Bangalore**, and bounded as follows: **East by:** Village Boundary of Singanayakanahalli Land; **West by:** Land in Sy.No.63; **North by:** Land in Sy No.60, 61, 59 and 58; **South by:** Village Boundary of Krishnarajapura

HOLLA & HOLLA
ADVOCATES
Level 4, Prestige Nebula, No. 8, Cubbon Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Place: Bangalore Date: 15.08.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to purchase the property more particularly described in the Schedule A and B hereunder from its present owner **MR.PRAKASH HEMANDAS RUPANI,** aged about 74 years, son of late Sri.Hemandas Rupani, residing at No.C – 1, Rustumji Residency, No.87, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560 025, who has represented that he has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claims any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule A and B Properties and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within Seven (15) days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring an extent of about 1 Acre 3 Guntas comprised in Sy.No.6/2, situated at Sompura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District (converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(HK)SR.121/2012-13, dated:22/09/2016 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore) now bearing Property No.150300401200820239 assigned by the Panchayat Development Officer, Sompura Village, Doddahulluru VP, Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: East by: Remaining portion of Sy.No.6/2 of Sompura Village; West by: Canal; North by: Sy.No.6/3 of Sompura Village; South by: Village boundary of Sonadenahalli Village.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the commercially converted land measuring an extent of about 37 Guntas comprised in Sy.No.6/2, situated at Sompura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District (converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(HK)SR.121/2012-13, dated:22/09/2016 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore) now bearing Property No.150300401200820237 assigned by the Panchayat Development Officer, Sompura Village, Doddahulluru VP, Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District and bounded on the: East by: Road; West by: Remaining portion of Sy.No.6/2 of Sompura Village; North by: Sy.No.6/3 of Sompura Village; South by: Village boundary of Sonadenahalli Village.

Sd/-
ARVIND RAGHAVAN, ADVOCATE
#48, "ishitha", 2nd Main Road, Vyalikaval Bangalore – 560 003
Mob: 98450 04419

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051

No:DGM-3/BSWML/PR/318/2025-26 Date:14.08.2025

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that the above referred tender notification no:**DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/08/2025-26,** issued by Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML on **28/07/2025** has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3,
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2337/CCL/2025-26

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 12.08.2025

Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-CIV-10/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in**. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of **"Construction of Ground + 2 Storey Building for Drone Testing at IISc Bangalore"** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.10,80,16,600.00/-. Last date of receipt of application is 01st Sep 2025 at 1530Hrs .** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

REGISTRAR

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No : JDA/EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-I/2025-26/D- Dated : 14.08.2025

NOTICE INVITING BID

NIB No.: EE & TA to Dir. Engg.-1/20/2025-26

Bids are invited from interested bidders for following works :-

S. No.	UBN No.	Cost of Work (Lacs)	Nature of Work	Last Date
1	JDA2526WSOB00360	373.77	Railing & Tile work	25.08.2025

Other particulars of the respective bid may be visited on Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in

Executive Engineer & TA to Dir.Engg-I

Raj.Samwad/C/25/8254

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Health Officer (PH), Annex-3, Ground Floor, BBMP Head Office, Bengaluru-560002

No: BBMP/2024-25/IND0075/Call-4 Date: 14.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagra Palike invites Short Term Re-Tender for the Supply of Refractometer to Namma Clinics of BBMP

Following is Event of Bid Process:

1.	Tender Reference no.	BBMP/2024-25/IND0075/Call-4
2.	Date of Commencement of Download of Document from Kpp Portal Website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in From **14.08.2025** onwards	
3.	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on **16.08.2025** at **11:30** am at the following Venue: Office of the Special Commissioner Health, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru - 560002.	
4.	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in kpp portal on **16.08.2025** upto **5:00** pm	
5.	Last date and time for uploading of e-Tender in KPP Portal is **21.08.2025** upto **5:00** pm.	
6.	Date and Time of online opening of Technical Bids in kpp portal is **22.08.2025** at **5:10** pm	
7.	Date and Time of Demonstration of Sample Submission shall be intimated after Technical Bid Opening.	
8.	Address for Communication: Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Office of the CHO ground floor, Annex-3 Building, Bengaluru - 560002. email: choph515@gmail.com 9845208571	

Prospective Service Providers willing to participate in this tender can down load the bid documents with visiting the web (**http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**)

Sd/-
Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSORE

(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Phone No. :+91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/, E-mail: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com

No. Sup/Diet/274/2024-25 Date: 12.08.2025

SHORT RE-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Short term Re-Tender for the supply of Prepared Diet food to the Associated Hospitals of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.

The Short term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of prepared Diet Food for In-patients of K.R. Hospital, Cheluvaba Hospital, P.K.T.B. & C.D. Hospital, Trauma Care Centre & Super Speciality Hospital which are associated hospitals of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru for the period of One year or until further orders (which ever is earlier). The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **14.08.2025** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **28.08.2025 upto 5.00 pm.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/804/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU thehindubusinessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR The Hindu on the world THE HINDU

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
[ICAR, NAAC accredited and UGC u/s 12(B) & 2(f) approved]
Stores Purchase Officer, UAS, Raichur - 584104,
E-mail: spo@uasraichur.edu.in Ph: 08532-220165

E-Tender Notification No. SPO/UASR/E-Proc-03 & 04/2025-26, Dt:12.08.2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur is inviting e-tender notification for 1. Purchase, Installation and Commissioning of modular lab furniture for newly constructed research complex at UAS, Raichur 2. Purchase, Installation and Commissioning of Confocal Microscopy and Allied instrument for Effective Application of Nanotechnology in Agriculture" at UAS, Raichur.The interested suppliers are requested to participate through online only. Thewebsite address iswww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in(Indent Number:-UASRCR/2025-26/IND0055 & 0056. The last date for submission of filled in Tender Document is 14.09.2025.

Sd/- Stores Purchase Officer
UAS, Raichur.

DIP/RCR/333/KSMCA/334/2025-26

Karnataka Forest Department
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS/ DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S PARK AND MINI ZOO, KALABURGI.

Email Id Address: acfkalaburgit@gmail.com

No.: A.C.F & DD CPCMZK/ KPPP/Po/Tender/C.R-04 /2025-26 Date:11/08/2025

LONG TERM TENDER NOTICE (THROUGH KPPP SECOND EDITION PORTAL) IS INVITED.

Cost of Tender Rs.149.48 Lakhs

This is to inform the public that tenders are invited for contractors registered with the Karnataka State Public Works Department for the construction of Civil/Plantation Development work at the Children's Park cum Mini Zoo, Madabula, Kalagi Taluka, Kalaburagi, during the year 2024-25 on the portal (website link http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) in the second version of the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from **11/08/2025 to 28/08/2025** till 04:00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on **29/08/2025 after 04:00 PM.** Financial bids of successful tenders in the technical bid will be opened on **30/08/2025 after 04:00 PM.**

For more details: You can call or visit the office during office hours on weekday. Phone: +91 9481993239.

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests and
Deputy Director Children's Park and Mini Zoo,
Deputy Conservator of Forests Office, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/391/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ./ಕೊ/208/2025–26 **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11–08–2025**

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯ–ವ್ಯಯ ಭಾಷಣದ ಕಂಡಿಕೆ 71ರಂತೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಚಿಲಕವಾಡಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 282/ಎ1 ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ 80 ಮೆ.ಟನ್ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ತೂಕದ ಯಂತ್ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ (ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 69,38,860.76 ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 1,38,800.00 ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಳಿಸಲು 03 ತಿಂಗಳ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರುಪಡಿಸಿ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು Standard Tender Documents KW-3 Clause-3 (with latest amendments) ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ವಯ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28–08–2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30–08–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 02–09–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 04–09–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– **ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ**
ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ. ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ

ಸಹಿ/– **ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ**
ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ. ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ

ಸಂ : ವಾಸಾಸಂ:ಚಾನಗರ:276:2025–26

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANGARPET

web:bangarpettown.mrc.gov.in, Email id:itstaff_ulb_bangarpet@yahoo.co.in
phone:08153-253222

Sl.No:TMCBPT/Tech/T3/2025-26 Date:11.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Government of Karnataka KPP portal only)

As per Karnataka Transparency in the Public procurement act 1999 and Rules 2000 under Standard Tender documents Rules KW3 the undersigned invites tenders in One and Two cover system for Eligible Contractors through KPP portal. The contractors may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Further details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned. **(1)** Last date & time for submission of tender **:30.08.2025, 17.00 hrs, (2)** Date & time of opening Technical bid: **02.09.2025, 11.00 hrs. (3) Date & Time of opening Finaccial bid: 17.09.2025, 11.00 hrs.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate amount (Rs.in lakhs)	EMD (In Rupees)
1.	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT41098	90.00	153000
2.	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT46511	60.00	102000
3.	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT46524	90.00	153000
4.	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT46543	60.00	102000

Sd/- **(Sri M. Govinda)** **President** **Town Municipal Council Bangarpet**

Sd/- **(Smt Chandraveni)** **Vice President** **Town Municipal Council Bangarpet**

Sd/- **(Sri V. Sathyanarayana)** **Chief Officer** **Town Municipal Council Bangarpet**

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No:228/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
District Urban Development Cell, DK District Mangaluru 575007

Phone:0824-2220593 Email: eedudc.dkd@gmail.com

No:DUDC/Mun(3) /CR/53/2025-26/186943 Date-13.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Dakshina Kannada District, Dakshina Kannada invites e-tenders from eligible PWD Registered contractor for Amruth Nagarothana Phase-4 Projects works as detailed below.

Sl. No	Description of Work	Amount put to tender Excluding GST (Rs.In Lakhs)	EMD Amount (In Rs.)	Tender Period (Excluding Monsoon
1	**Construction of roads, Drains, Retaining wall, Graveyard, Park, PK Quatress , Samudaya Bhavana, Highmast and Street light works in Bantwala TMC Limits under Amrutha Nagarothana Phase 4. (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT46094)**	212.72	3.20	9 months
2	**Construction of roads, Drains, Retaining Wall in Bantwala TMC limits under Amrutha Nagarothana phase 4 Incentive grant. (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT44963)**	76.25	1.53	6 months

For More detailed information please visit website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/
Calender of Events are as follows: S.No:1 - Last date for Submission of tender: 12.09.2025 @ 5.30 PM, Date of pre Bid meeting: 25.08.2025 @ 11.00AM office of DUDC, D.K, Date of opening of Technical bid: 15.09.2025 @11.00AM, Date of Opening of Financial Bid: 18.09.2025 @11.00AM
S.No:2 - Last date for Submission of tender : 28.08.2025 @ 5.30PM, Date of opening of Technical bid: 30.08.2025 @11.00AM, Date of Opening of Financial Bid: 02.09.2025 @11.00AM
Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-procurement portal and will not be published in newspaper

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell,
D.K. district, Mangaluru.

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/632/25-26 dt.14.08.2025

Sri Venkateswara Swamy vari Devastanam
Dwaraka Tirumala (Chinna Tirupathi) Eluru Dist-534426. Ph: 08829-271427
Website: www.dwarakatirumala.org, e-mail: eo_dwarakatirumala@yahoo.co.in

Computer No.50924 - REV65/34/2023-C2, Dt: 14-08-2025

E-Tender / Sealed Tender / Public Auction for collection of Human Hair right for 2 years i.e for the period from 13.11.2025 to 12.11.2027. Public auction will be conducted on 29.08.2025 at Paduka Mandapam. **Required Documents: 1. Aadhar Card, 2. Pan Card, 3. Last three years IT returns (2022-23, 23-24 and 24-2025) The Tender Details as 1.** EMD Rs.1,00,00,000/- to be paid in the form of D.D in favor of Executive Officer, Sri Venkateswara Swamyvari Devastanam, Dwarakatirumala, **2.** Tender Schedule issued from Dt: 19.08.2025 to 28.08.2025 10 am to 5 pm, **3.** Sealed Tender Participation Dt: 29.08.2025 10 am to 11 pm, **4.** E-Procurement **www.apeprocurement.gov.in.** login starts from Dt: 19.08.2025.

Note: for further information please contact leases section in office timings: Contact Numbers: 63003 88355, 84650 44484, 62814 07989.

Sri S.V.Sudhakara Rao
Chairman & Founder Trustee

Sd/- **N.V.S.N. Murthy**
Joint Commissioner & Executive Officer

Public Works Department
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

(I.F.T) No.06/2025-26 Date: 02.08.2025

(For Road - Const Works –As per SBD KW 3 & 4 in Two Tender Document System (Two Cover)

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per KPPP Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders **from Date: 02.08.2025 to 18.08.2025 up to 04:00 pm**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:156/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. 952/GDG/EE(E)/E.No-/2025-26/2549 Date: 12.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Operations Division, Gadag.

1) Supply and Fixing of Digital Multi Function Meters at 110KV S/s Rona. 2) Supplying of Siemens make 11KV breaker spare materials at 110KV S/s Betageri. 3) Supplying, Fixing, Testing & Commissioning of Auxiliary Relays along with providing and laying of 19 core cable at 110KV S/s Betageri. 4) Supply and Fixing of Digital Multi Function Meters at 110KV S/s Hirehala. 5) Repair of Transformer Online – Oil Drying System at 400KV S/s Doni. 6) Overhauling of 11KV MEI make MCVCB breakers with required spares at 110KV S/s Naregal

Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from **16.08.2025 at 10:00Hrs onwards. Due date: 30.08.2025 at 04:00 pm.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)., Operations Division, KPTCL, Bapuji Nagar, Gadag – 582103 Ph: 08372-234350

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.

No.EE/PRE/DS/Soraba/Sagara/Shikaripura/Hosanagara/KW-1,2&3/KG-1/AE/JE/2025-26/934 Date:- 08-08-2025

Tender Notice (Through KPPP Portal)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, the Panchayat Raj Engineering / Public Works Department invites item-wise tenders through KPPP in the form of a Standard Document for the procurement of works KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, and KG-1 from eligible contractors registered with KPPP for the construction of works approved under ICDS & MGNREGA Anganwadi, Swachh Bharat Mission – Grey Water Management, Mahatvaakaankshi Yojana, P.M. Shri Yojana, and Special Grant Scheme 5054 for the year 2023-24. Contractors who fill the tender form and pay the form fee and EMD through E-Payment (Credit Card / Direct Debit / NEFT / OTC challan) should ensure that the payment is completed and submitted at least two days before the last date of tender submission.

1) Date of downloading the tender form: from 08-08-2025 up to 21-08-2025 **2**) Last date for submission of tender form : 21-08-2025 at 17:00 **3**) Date of opening of bids : 22-08-2025 at 17:01

Details of the tender can be viewed and downloaded from the KPPP website (www.kppp.gov.in) by contacting the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara. For further information, can be obtained from the subject coordinator / manager (office phone number: 08183-226064 during office hours) or hphelpdesk phone number: 080-25501216, 25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Sagara

DIPR/smg/NO:67/08/ksmca/25-26/755

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes
(East Zone & KR Puram Constituency), Room No. 309,
3rd Floor, Annex-3 building, BBMP, N.R.Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No. EE/Lakes/East&KRPC/TN-05/2025-26/Call-2 Date: 13.08.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - Call-2

Tender Notification (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Lakes (East Zone & KR Puram Constituency) BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Item rate Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Repairs to Gazebo and providing trash barriers and floating wetlands at Kowdenahalli lake **(CAT II-A).**	27.00	27,000/-
2	Repairs and providing gates and security rooms and floating wetlands at B.Narayanapura (next to temple side) lake. **(OTHERS)**	25.00	50,000/-
3	Providing Gazebo and benches and leaf composters in Horamavu (Jayanti) lake **(ST).**	24.00	25,000/-
4	Providing floating wetlands and leaft composters at Mahadevapura 1 & Mahadevapura 2 lakes. **(OTHERS).**	22.00	50,000/-
5	Repairs and construction of security rooms, leaf composters and floating wetlands in Vijinapura and Bhattarahalli lakes **(OTHERS).**	30.00	60,000/-

Stipulated period of completion : **3 months.**
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14.08.2025. (2)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders : **20.08.2025 upto 3.00 pm. (3)** Date of opening of tender : **21.08.2025 at 11.00 am.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Lakes
(East Zone & KR Puram Constituency), BBMP

Sneha Elevators: Elevating Safety, Expanding Horizons

In an industry where cutting corners can come at the cost of human lives, Sneha Elevators has built its reputation on one uncompromising belief—every elevator must be safe. Since its inception in 2017 under the leadership of visionary entrepreneur P. Vaibhav Reddy, the company has grown from a determined manufacturer from Telangana into one of South India's most trusted names in vertical mobility.

The idea of Sneha Elevators was born out of a glaring problem in the market. Customers were forced to choose between expensive multinational products or cheap, unsafe lifts from the unorganized sector. There was no middle ground that offered both safety and value. Sneha Elevators set out to fill that gap, and in doing so, changed expectations of what an Indian-made elevator could deliver.

Safety as a Responsibility, Not an Option

For Sneha Elevators, safety is not a feature to be marketed—it is the very foundation of the business. Across India, the absence of strict oversight in the unorganized elevator segment often results in poorly designed installations that put passengers at risk. Sneha Elevators has positioned itself as the answer to this challenge, pledging that every system it installs in South India will meet or exceed the highest safety standards.

Every elevator passes through a rigorous multi-stage testing process before it reaches a customer. Safety mechanisms such as emergency braking systems, anti-rollback protection, seismic sensors, and automatic rescue devices are standard across the range. Components are built to endure India's diverse climate conditions, from the humidity of coastal cities to the intense heat of inland towns, ensuring consistent performance over decades.

The Only Elevator Brand with Its Own Manufacturing Unit

A major reason Sneha Elevators can deliver such consistent quality lies in a unique advantage—it is the only elevator manufacturer in Telangana with its own state-of-the-art factory to provide end-to-end solutions. Located in the heart of the state, the facility is the largest of its kind and serves as the nerve centre of the company's operations.

"We believe a person stepping into one of our elevators should feel as secure as they do in their own living room,"

- says Vaibhav Reddy.

While many competitors depend on imported parts or third-party assembly, Sneha Elevators oversees every step of production, from initial design to the final safety check. This complete control allows for superior quality assurance, greater flexibility in design, and faster delivery times. It also ensures that spare parts are always available and that after-sales service is smooth and efficient.

Perhaps most importantly, having an in-house factory makes true customization possible. Elevators can be designed to fit unusual building layouts, unique architectural styles, or challenging technical requirements—all without compromising safety.

Customization Without Compromise

Because everything is built under one roof, Sneha Elevators can create lifts that perfectly match the needs of each client. A private villa might require a compact, whisper-quiet home elevator. A corporate tower may need a high-speed lift with cutting-edge digital controls. A manufacturing plant could call for a rugged goods elevator capable of handling heavy loads daily. In every case, the approach is the same: tailor the design, engineer for performance, and integrate the highest safety features.

For clients in the premium and niche segments, Sneha Elevators offers a range of luxury options—custom cabin materials, designer finishes, ambient lighting, and advanced automation systems. These premium touches never come at the expense of structural integrity or safety, which remain non-negotiable.

Expanding for Modern Needs

As South India's cities grow taller and busier, Sneha Elevators is widening its product portfolio to meet modern demands. Its new premium residential elevators cater to luxury homes and upscale apartment projects, combining elegance with flawless functionality. Commercial elevators have been upgraded for high-frequency use, with reinforced structures and enhanced safety locks.

The most exciting addition is the launch of Sneha Escalators, aimed at malls, airports, metro stations, and other public spaces. These escalators are designed with non-slip step patterns, energy-saving modes, and automatic lubrication systems, blending durability with low maintenance requirements. Their introduction marks a bold step towards making Sneha a full-service vertical and horizontal transport solutions provider.

"Up Safe, Always" – More Than a Motto

The company's new motto, "Up Safe, Always", reflects its determination to keep raising industry standards. In practice, this means rejecting outdated codes, refusing shortcuts, and continually innovating. The in-house R&D division works on everything from energy-efficient drive systems to eco-friendly transit management technologies and AI-based predictive maintenance, ensuring elevators remain safe and efficient for years to come.

South India as the Growth Engine

Sneha Elevators has established a strong presence in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and is now rapidly expanding into Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala. Its clients include leading real estate developers, major hospital groups, industrial facilities, and discerning homeowners.

By taking a public stand against unsafe practices in the unorganized sector, Sneha Elevators has become more than a manufacturer—it has become a trusted partner for cities and communities working to improve safety standards.

The Sneha Service Advantage

For Sneha Elevators, installation is just the beginning of a long-term relationship. Its service and maintenance teams are trained within the company, meaning every technician understands the products inside out. This expertise translates to faster problem-solving, reduced downtime, and extended operational life for every installation. The combination of in-house manufacturing and in-house servicing offers something rare in the industry—true end-to-end accountability.

Safety as a Legacy

The roots of Sneha Elevators trace back to the vision of Shri D. Ram Reddy, founder of the Sneha Group, a name synonymous with integrity and innovation. Under the leadership of Vaibhav Reddy, those values now guide a business that sees safety not as a marketing tool, but as a moral obligation. This commitment drives Sneha Elevators to exceed compliance requirements, invest in advanced safety features, and push for greater awareness in the industry.

Tunnel roads are inevitable given the cost of land acquisition, says D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, speaking in the Legislative Council, in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Defending the proposed tunnel roads in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said that the State government cannot afford the prohibitive cost of land acquisition, paying double rates to the property owners.

The deadline for participating in the tender is likely to be postponed as many have evinced interest, he added.

"Road widening is impossible now. The government cannot provide the compensation at double the rate. In Bengaluru, most of the properties have a value of more than ₹10,000 per sq. ft. Wherever possible, a flyover is being constructed. We are unable to construct a flyover where metro lines are there," the Deputy Chief Minister told the Legislative Council, while replying to a question from BJP member C.T. Ravi.

"Tunnel is the only option. We have worked on it for almost one and a half years, including on the price. A traffic survey was conducted. Discussion on how to dispose off the silt is on," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

The government is providing 40% of the cost as viability gap funding, while the contractor will bring in 60% of the cost, he said, adding that the roads are being built on a build-operate and transfer mode and will be tolled. According to Mr. Shivakumar, ₹800 crore would be required for private land acquisition, and mostly, the government land is being used.

Despite protests against the tunnel road project, which mobility experts say will only help private transport, the State government is pushing for the 28-km K.R. Pura-Nayandahalli corridor at an estimated cost of ₹18,000 crore and 16.7-km Hebbal-Silk Board junction corridor at an estimated cost of ₹17,700 crore.

Ready for investigation

Replying to allegations of inflated price, he said that the comparison of cost between metro tunneling and tunnel road was not proper since the diameter of the tunnel road was double that of the metro tunnels. These tunnels will be 14m in diameter. "I am not looking at business or finance perspective. I want to leave a legacy. We are open to any investigation," he said.

'Govt. losing ₹1,000 cr. annually on Shivaram Karanth Layout'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is losing about ₹1,000 crore annually on Shivaram Karanth layout following a High Court stay, said Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday in the Legislative Council.

"The government has invested about ₹7,000 crore for the development of the layout. Due to the stay order, we are unable to allot sites in the layout. The government is seeking legal advice from the Advocate General on this matter. The government faces a loss of about ₹1,000 crore annually due to the stay order." He pointed out that though the acquisition process commenced 15 years ago, compensation to farmers have not been given yet.

PRR project

Speaking on the Peripheral Ring Road project, the Deputy Chief Minister said that he was not ready to go to jail by denotifying land, but the project cannot be stopped.

"We are looking at alternatives. We are trying to take land from farmers under the 60:40 scheme. Near Gottigere, though the land has been notified for the road, revenue layouts have come up and there are about 5,000 homes. We are considering an elevated portion of the road," he told Legislative Council in response to a question on the fate of houses that have come up in revenue layouts besides seeking scrapping of the project.

"I am not ready to go to jail by denotifying the land. Even our government is not ready to do it. The preliminary notification was issued in 2006, and since then, no government has denotified the land. We cannot drop the road project at any cost. It is a ₹26,000-crore project," he said.

Though no farmer is cultivating the land, compensation has not been provided for about 20 years. "Land prices in those areas are upto ₹20 crore an acre," Mr. Shivakumar said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Finance, Department of Fiancial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road Bengaluru - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 as amended

RC No. 192/2024

CANARA BANK V/s OM SRI LAKSHMI HEAT TREATERS

In the matter of (CH-1) Canara Bank, (Erstwhile Syndicate Bank) Peenya Branch, No. 252, 1st Floor, Surekha complex, 100 ft Road, Peenya, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 057, Bangalore, Karnataka. **...Applicant**

Vs

(CD 1) Om Sri Lakshmi Heat Treaters, Proprietorship Concern, having its Registered Office at : No.328, 13th Cross, Karimsab Layout, Next To veda Garments, Heggamahalli, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 091. Represented by its Proprietor, Sri N. K. Raghu Kumar.

(CD-2) Sri N. K. Raghu Kumar, S/o. Sri Kuppu Swamy, E-486, No. 132, 13th Cross, Vibhutipura, Ramesha Nagara, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 037.

....Defendant(s)

Sl No.	CH Name	Int. Type/ mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Amount (Rs.)	Int. as per Order date	RC Amount	Re mark
1.	Canara Bank	Simple Interest	11	25.08.2016	27.06.2023	1378760.78	0	1378760.78	

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT-1) in **OA /1936/2016** an amount of **Rs.13,78,760.78** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty and Paise Seventy Eight Only) along with cost and future interest @ 11 % p.a. simple interest w.e.f. 25.08.2016 till realization and costs of Rs.54755/- (Rupees Fifty Four Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Five Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

Sl No.	CD Name	Int. Type /Mode	Int. Rate	Effective Date	Order Date	Libility Type	RC Amount
1	Om Sri Lakshmi Heat Treaters, Rep by its Prop. N K. Raghu Kumar	Simple Interest	-	28.08.2016	27.06.2023	NA	-
2	Sri N. K. Raghu Kumar	Simple Interest	11% p.a.	28.08.2016	27.06.2023	Fully	1378760.78

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3**.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4.** You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5**. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **24.07.2024**

Sd/- (P.H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS) , Recovery Officer -II

Government of India
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road
Bengaluru-560001

RC/1621/2019
FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
27-07-2020
By Regd. A/D. Dasti Failing which by Publication

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(Erst. CORPORATION BANK)
Versus
SRI BYRAIAH & ANOTHER

To,
CORPORATION BANK
Corporation Bank Bilagumba Branch
Bilagumba Ramanagara Dis Rep by its
Principal Officer Senior Manager
Venkatesh Sharma - 562159 **... Certificate Holder**

1. Sri Byraiah
S/o Late Siddaiah
Doddamannugudde Village
Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk 562159
2. Smt. Subbamma
W/o Byraiah
Doddamannugudde Village, Kasaba Hobli
Ramanagar Taluk - 562159 **... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) in **OA/1540/2018** an amount of **Rs 3897088.00 (Rupees Thirty Eight Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousands Eighty Eight Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 16.35% w.e.f. **21-08-2018** till realization and costs of **Rs. 76755 (Rupees Seventy Six Thousands Seven Hundred Fifty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally)

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act. 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from this notice for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this

Date 27-07-2020

Sd/- Recovery Officer-2
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT 2)

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD
DIVISIONAL OFFICE BUILDING
No.6, 2nd Floor, Shri Vasavi Temple Road,
Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram, Bangalore - 560004

SAFE DEPOSIT LOCKER BREAK OPEN PUBLIC NOTICE

The following hirers have availed safe deposit locker facility from the following branches and failed to renew the same within the stipulated time, in spite of repeated notices issued to them by **The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.** Since the hirers have failed to pay the locker rent dues, we are constrained to break open of the said locker on the following dates, at the concerned branch premises at **10.30 AM.**

This Public Notice is to the hirers and also applies to their legal heirs of the deceased if any. A Copy of this Notice is sent by Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due (RPAD) to the Hirers/Legal Heirs to pay the total locker arrears within the date of break open. The notices are sent to the addresses available last with the branch.

The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd has the authority to change the Break Opening Date without any prior notice.

Sl. No	HIRER/s NAME	Locker No.	Amount Due (`)	Date of Break open	Branch Address And Contact No.
1	Krishnan. V	1306001B003	13,098	22/08/2025	No. 997, Subash Chandra Bose Road, BM Road, Robertsonpet, K.G.F, Kolar – 563122 9538889176
2	Manohar Tamnna Guddakayu	1319002D056	26,550	25/08/2025	Sai Ganesh Plaza, C.T.S No. 1835, Hans Talkies Road, Belagavi – 590002 9886406111
3	H Karuna	1322002B022	5,664	26/08/2025	Door No. D 2560, JC Circle, KR Road, Hoskote – 562 114 9538889175
4	Chukkapalli Hemavathi	1322002B036	7,080		
5	Mounika Gandla	1358002D016	11,800	28/08/2025	2254, D Block, Kodigehalli Main Road, Sahakar Nagar, Bangalore – 560092 9513990771

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
Date : 14.08.2025 **The Karur Vysya Bank Limited**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR LOST OF DOCUMENT

I am issuing this public notice under the instructions of my client **SRI.S.JAYARAJ,** S/o Sri.Selvaraj Annamalai, Aadhar No.7932 8136 0299, R/at. No.06, J.J.R.Nagara, 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore – 560 059, that he is the absolute owner of the Residential Property bearing Site No.6, BBMP Khatha No.72/44/1/6, BBMP EPID No.6309179430, Situated at Valagerahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, now comes within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Measuring : East to West : 30 feet and North to South : 28 feet, in all measuring : 840 Square feet and bounded on East by : Road, West by : Earlier Site No.6, Presently Site No.270, North by : Road and South by : Property belongs to Sri.Karibasappa.K and Sri.Ramesh Kumar.C.

It is hereby informing to the general public that, my client lost/misplaced the following original documents of the property are as mentioned below:-

i) Original Agreement of Sale, dated: 21/11/2022, executed by Smt.Zareena Taj in favour of Sri.S.Sanjay, vide Doc.No.KEN-1-08904/2022-23, of Book – I, Stored in C.D.No.KEND1691, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Jayanagar (Kengeri), Bangalore.

ii) Original Cancellation of Sale Agreement, dated: 20/11/2023, entered between Smt.Zareena Taj and Sri.S.Sanjay, vide Doc.No.KEN-1-06307/2023-24, of Book – I, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Jayanagar (Kengeri), Bangalore.

iii) Original Absolute Sale Deed, dated: 20/11/2023, executed by Smt.Zareena Taj in favour of Sri.S.Jayaraj, vide Doc.No.KEN-1-06318/2023-24, of Book – I, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Jayanagar (Kengeri), Bangalore.

My client Sri.S.Jayaraj undertaking that he has not pledged the said original documents and not availed any loan/financial/credit facilities from any person/financial institution/Banks. For future perfection, clarification and to safeguard the legal rights of my client Sri.S.Jayaraj, I am issuing this public notice.

In this regard my client has lodged police complaint vide Lost Article Report No.1752393/2025, dated: 14/08/2025, before the jurisdictional Police. If any body found the said document, the same may be handed over at the below mentioned address.

Mrs.M.Manjula, Advocate
No.C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G.Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob : 9945027091.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, BENGALURU
No:4, Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building,
Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560025

DRC No. 298/2020 Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))

Canara Bank, Gokula Branch, Mathikere Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru District - 560 054 **...Certificate Holder**

Versus

Sri Sambashiva **.. Certificate Debtor(s)**

DEMAND NOTICE

To

Sri Sambashiva S/o. Sri Chenagaiah, Proprietor of S. S. Enterprises, No. 764/8, II Cross, SRS Road, Peenya I Stage, Bengaluru - 560 058.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No.494/2019** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bengaluru on 21.05.2020 for an amount of **Rs.13,20,782/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty Two Only) is due against you along with interest and costs from the date of filing of O.A. till relaization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay :

a)Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b)All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **07.08.2020**

Sd/- (Deepainduvani S.),
Recovery Officer- II
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below:

"Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. Auto_Sig_ YPR-ASK Date: 08.08.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Provision of Automatic Signalling between Yesvantpur - Arsikere Section of Bengaluru and Mysuru Divisions.	₹160,89,45,177.76

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 15.09.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/379/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-Tender Notice
No. Auto_Sig-CSDR-PKD Date : 11.08.25

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Provision of Automatic Signalling between Channasandra-Penukonda Section of Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 139,40,69,610.84

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 22.09.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Construction, Bengaluru Contonment
PUB/383/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Moblie App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

Government of India
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road
Bengaluru-560001

RC/1404/2019
FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
23-06-2020
By Regd. A/D. Dasti Failing which by Publication

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(Erst. CORPORATION BANK)
Versus
SRI CHANDRASHEKAR

To,
CORPORATION BANK
Bilagumba Branch, Biligumba
Rep by its Principal Officer and Branch
Manager Sri Venkatesh Sharma - 562159
... Applicant Bank / Certificate Holder

1. Sri Chandrashekar
S/o Venkataswamy,
Doddamannugudda Village, Vaddatradoddi, Kasaba Hobli,
Ramanagara Taluk - 562109
2. Master Dikshith
(Minor Rep by His Father And Natural Guardian Mr. Chandrashekar)
Doddamannuguda Village (Vaddaradoddi),
Kasaba Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk - 562109
3. Smt. Honamma
W/o Venkataswamy
Doddmannugudda Village (Vaddaradoddi), Kasaba Hobli
Ramanagara Taluk - 562109
4. Smt. Venkatalakshmi
D/o Venkataswamy
Doddamannugudda Village (Vaddaradoddi), Kasaba Hobli
Ramanagara Taluk - 562159 **... Defendants / Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) in **OA/735/2018** an amount of **Rs 6070964.00 (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Seventy Thousands Nine Hundred Sixty Four Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 13.00% Compound Interest Half-yearly w.e.f. **26-04-2018** till realization and costs of **Rs. 62355 (Rupees Sixty Three Thousands Two Hundred Fifty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally)

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act. 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from this notice for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings.

(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this

Date 23-06-2020

Sd/- Recovery Officer-1
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT 2)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG),
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru-560094 Ph:080-22172614/2613

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works:

Sr. No.	Title of work and NIT no.	Estimated Cost put to tender	Period of Completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Due date and time of submission	Date of tender Opening	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)
01	Maintenance Contract for providing Pest & Rodent Control measures for HSFC Training Facility, Marathahalli, Bengaluru **HSFC/CMG/MM/C/152/2025-26, Dt: 13.08.2025**	Rs.5.17 Lakhs	24 Months	From 14.08.2025 (11.00 hrs) to 20.08.2025 (23.30 hrs)	22.08.2025 up to 11.00 hrs	22.08.2025 at 11.30 hrs	Rs. 10,340/-

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed in the above website. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** For further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

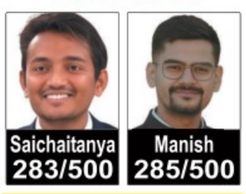
EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ANTHRO

OUR TOPPERS IAS 2024

Batch Starts: Aug 16 (2 pm)



Batch Highlights
- 300+ Answers Prepared & Evaluated
- Test Series Included
- Time-bound Answer-writing after Prelims
- Personalized Mentoring
- PYQs Analysis
- Full Support Till Success
- Fee Rewarded Back for IAS, IPS IFS selections

THEY SCORED (Classroom Students) MORE IN OPTIONAL THAN AIR 1(279) & AIR 2(269) {PSIR}

Test Series 2026 ▸ 16 Tests (12 Sectional +4 FLT) ▸ Discussion with Vaid Sir ▸ Flexible Scheddule ▸ Individual Evaluation

VAID'S ICS, DELHI
For details visit www.vaidsics.com or call 953 800 1600

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

WANTED FRANCHISEE / Freelancer – Sri Venkateswara Montessori Teachers Training School (Regd) (Estd:2001). www.svm.co.in / svmdesk@gmail.com Ph: 8939026362

REAL ESTATE

ANANYA'S NANA Nani phase1 2BHK Villa for sale in Thondamuthur, Coimbatore. Ph–9159618021

TENDERS

LAKIREDDY BALI REDDY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING (A)
L.B. Reddy Nagar, Mylavaram - 521230. A.P., INDIA. www.lbrce.ac.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply, installation and commissioning of equipment, tools, machinery and software under AICTE IDEA Lab (ID: IDEA202000082).

Tender Documents can be downloaded from **www.lbrce.ac.in**

Last date for submission 30.08.2025 (11.59 PM)

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HEMA Pradeep d/o Hanumanthappa , r/o: Sree Nilayam, Vibhuthi Pura Matt Rd, Ramesh Nagar, Blr–560037. Have changed my name as Hanumanthappa Hema Pradeep.Vide affidavit on 12/08/2025.

I, KUMARASWAMY G alias Gopalakrishna Kumaraswamy S/o P N Gopalakrishnan R/o–300 7th Cross Domlur Layout Extension Bangalore Karnataka–560071 changed my name to GOPALAKRISHNA KUMARASWAMY

I, IRENE Mercllina Rosetta, d/o: Bernard Alfred Lobo, r/o: Geethanjali Nilayam, 1st Flr, 8th Maruthi Crs, Old, Post Off Road Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru–560016. Have Changed My Name To Irene Mercllina Lobo. Affidavit Date On 12/08/2025.

I, PRABHU Pardeepan S/o Parthipan K, No. B-605, B Block, Banyan Brigade Orchards, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka-562110, have changed my name to Prabhu Parthipan, vide affidavit dated: 14.08.2025 before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

I, DASIREDDY Gari Manjulamma W/o Manjunatha.K, No.220, Vijayananda Nagar, 2nd Main, Nandini Layout, B'luru - 96 have changed my name to Manjula Dasireddy vide affidavit dt 14.08.25 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, B'luru

I, INDUSHEKAR H R, No. 13649996Y working in Parachute Regiment Training Centre, presently R/a No.1822/A, 23rd Cross, 3rd Main, Govindrajnagar, Bangalore, Karnataka have changed my minor Son's name from Yuvan to Yuvan.I vide affidavit dt: 31.07.2025 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru.

I, MARY Mathai, W/o. Mathai Stephen, R/at GB Osborne Orchid, 7, Osborne Road, Bengaluru-560042 declare that both the names Mary Mathai and Usha Mathai pertains to one and the same person i.e., myself only and I shall be called as Mary Mathai for all official purposes vide affidavit dated : 14/08/2025 sworn before Notary N.Kanchivaradaraju, Bengaluru.

A tryst with destiny: Girl in the gallery, a nation in the making

Bengaluru resident Sharada Nayak, 93, was in the Parliament House when Nehru delivered his historic first address

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

In her quiet Bengaluru home, author and educationist Sharada Nayak drifts back to a midnight 79 years ago, when the air was filled with hope, pride and promise of tomorrow.

As Jawaharlal Nehru's "Tryst with Destiny" echoed not only in the central hall of Parliament, but through the lengths and breaths of a young India, Ms. Nayak, only about 14-years-old then, was present in the Parliament.

"I still get goose pimples thinking about it," says the 93-year-old who believes she might be one of the last persons living to have attended the ceremony.

Sharada Nayak, author and educationalist, at her home in R.T. Nagar. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Witnessing history

Ms. Nayak's father, A.V. Pai, held important positions in pre and post-independent India. An Indian Civil Service officer during the British Raj was sent as an agent to Ceylon, where he played a crucial role in unionising the oppressed Tamil plantation labourers. Nehru visited Ceylon during the same period, and that was the beginning of a bond that lasted for decades that followed.

In June 1947, Nehru asked Pai to accompany Vijaylakshmi Pandit to Moscow to establish the first Indian Embassy. Pai, however, declined, citing his father's terminal illness and the schooling of his young children.

"Nehru lost his temper. Your father's illness and your children's education are of secondary importance; Your duty to your country comes first, he said," Ms. Nayak notes. Pai subsequently left for Moscow along with his wife, Tara Pai, leaving Ms. Nayak and her younger sister in Delhi under the care of house help. H.V. Kamath, a constituent Assembly member then and later a parliamentarian, was a relative and dropped by frequently to check in on the children.

During one such visit, he mentioned the upcoming midnight session on 14 August. Ms. Nayak, who grew excited, wondered if she could attend the historic moment. Kamath got her two passes. "I went with a neighbour and we were in the gallery. Most other guests were officials. Since I was little, they gave me the front seat. I peeped over the ledge and looked down as Nehru made his speech. For me, especially given that I was in my teens when you are very idealistic, it all felt very exciting. I remember that night very fondly," she reminisces.

A natural choice

Post-independence, Nayak went on to complete her studies and became the executive director of the United States Educational Foundation in India, overseeing the Fulbright Exchange programme. She also founded the Educational Resources Trust, which focuses on teacher training and student workshops on citizenship, gender studies, and political awareness.

She feels education as a path to pursue came naturally to her, with her great-grand uncle being Ammembal Subba Rao Pai, a pioneer who founded the Canara High School and Canara Bank.

As an educationist, she feels the biggest gap in the Indian education system is the rote learning model. "Everything is being learned by heart and vomited out onto the exam papers. Even in our religions, we learn things by heart and simply repeat them. What we miss is the ability to be innovative and to inquire. I would like our students not to learn from textbooks, but to be given assignments that prompt them to be creative and develop their own opinions," she says.

On textbook revision

Ms. Nayak also records her displeasure with the recent changes in the NCERT textbooks, where several chapters related to the Mughal era and Hindutwa extremist organisations' displeasure towards Mahatma Gandhi were deleted.

"I don't like them because they're all politically motivated. Whoever is in power at a time will put what suits their ideologies in the book. I don't like textbooks as such," she said.

Bengeri unit in the doldrums as flag sales continue to fall

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Workers stitching the national flag at the country's sole BIS recognised manufacturing unit at Bengeri in Hubballi. KIRAN BAKALE

It is that time of the year again when a tricolour is seen in every nook and corner of the country with everyone from toddlers to senior citizens taking pride in celebrating Independence Day.

However, the same zeal is not to be seen at the nation's first BIS-recognised khadi flag manufacturing unit at Bengeri in Hubballi, as flag sale has dropped for the fourth year in succession. This year, the sale of flags has been reduced to just a quarter of the previous year.

Flag Code

Despite the hype over the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, sales at the BIS recognised national flag manufacturing unit, which functions under Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha (KKGSS), Bengeri in Hubballi, are dwindling thanks to the amendment made to the Flag Code allowing polyester flags and the general shift towards the cheaper flags.

The Union government made the amendment to the National Flag Code of India just before the announcement of Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to mark the platinum jubilee celebrations of India's Independence in 2022, allowing production of national flags using polyester cloth.

Prior to 2022, the flag code allowed the use of only khadi cloth. KKGSS has been manufacturing BIS recognised national flags since 2004. "Last fiscal, KKGSS sold flags worth ₹1.8 crore, which was lower compared to the previous years. This year, the number has gone down further. We have sold flags worth just ₹50 lakh till date. We contacted every single khadi sangha that placed bulk orders with us. But they too are helpless, as they have unsold stock," KKGSS secretary Shivanand Mathapathi told *The Hindu*.

No more bulk orders

KKGSS used to get bulk orders from across the nation. But the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and the amendment to the flag code have actually taken away the advantage that khadi units had.

According to BIS standards, the flag unit is required to manufacture only nine sizes of national flags, but not the size of flag mentioned in the campaign. Added to this, the polyester cloth flags are cheaper.

In all, 1,200 people, mainly women, are involved in the national flag manufacturing and khadi work in khadi units spread across the districts of Dharwad and Bagalkot.

The khadi cloth used for making the flag comes from 21 villages in Bagalkot district and the final production happens at Bengeri.

"We manufacture in anticipation of orders. As of now, we have a stock of flags worth ₹2.5 crore. If the same situation continues, we will be forced to stop production, rendering our employees jobless," Mr. Mathapathi said.

Plea of workers

The plea of khadi workers and activists is that the amendment to the flag code be repealed and it should be made mandatory for government institutions to purchase only khadi flags. However, their plea seems to have fallen on deaf ears.

When the flag code was amended, the then Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister for Consumer Affairs Pralhad Joshi had termed it a temporary measure to cater to the huge demand for flags on account of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. But, even after four years, this temporary measure is still in place.

KKGSS was established on November 7, 1957 by a group of Gandhians and khadi activists led by Venkatesh Magadi and others.

From Page One

Traffic police list 4,500 potholes for action by BBMP

Raghavendra Prasad, BBMP's Chief Engineer (road infrastructure), told *The Hindu* that they have developed a website-application using an open-source platform to facilitate quick issue resolution through continuous monitoring.

According to *The Hindu's* review of the system, the BBMP has used the coordinates provided by the BTP to map potholes, marking each with the same symbol but in different colours for the eight city zones. For example, potholes in the Bommanahalli zone are marked in yellow, while those in the South zone appear in orange, with other zones having their own distinct colours.

Mr. Prasad explained that once a pothole is fixed, its colour changes on the system to indicate the problem has been resolved. "We will also conduct regular audits of these repaired patches, and if the same problem reappears, the contractor will be held accountable," he said.

Wide use of Eco-fix

Mr. Prasad revealed that the BBMP plans to make extensive use of eco-fix mix to fill potholes this time, though the final decision will depend on the size and location of each pothole. Alongside Eco-fix, the traditional hot and cold mixes will also be employed

Eco-fix mix incorporates industrial waste, specifically steel slag, making it both sustainable and cost-effective. In December 2024, the BBMP, in collaboration with the Central Road Research Institute and Ramco Global Services, launched a pilot project using Eco-fix mix technology to repair potholes. Mr. Prasad noted that the pilot delivered promising results.

A traffic police source told *The Hindu* that while these issues may receive temporary fixes during the monsoon, the core problems can only be resolved through a comprehensive overhaul.

Three-day protest by ASHAs comes to an end

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the government considering few of the demands put forth by ASHA workers in Karnataka, members of the AIUTUC-affiliated Karnataka State United ASHA Workers' Association withdrew their three-day round-the-clock protest on Thursday.

ASHA workers – the first point of contact for people, especially in rural areas – took to the streets in all district centres and protested by forming human chains on major roads and circles in conclusion of their three-day strike.

While the decision to increase the population limit to be covered by every ASHA and the threat to dismiss ASHA workers arbitrarily has been abandoned by the State Health Department, the government is yet to fulfill their demand of a fixed monthly honorarium of ₹10,000.

Meanwhile, Sarvatrika Arogya Andolana Karnataka (SAA-K) has extended support to the protesting ASHA workers.

Citizens' collective holds midnight flag hoisting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The third edition of the Midnight Flag Hoisting on August 15, organised by #SatyamevaJayate, a collective of progressive artists and citizens, took place at the RBANM's High School grounds in Ulsoor.

The event, which showcased India's rich cultural diversity with performances by Oorali, Kayaka and Kalaburagi Kala Mandali, and students of RBANM's institutions, began at 5 p.m. and concluded with the hoisting of the national flag at midnight.

Hoisting the flag at midnight on August 15 was a tradition followed by freedom fighters since 1947. In Bengaluru, Sajjan Rao Circle and Mysore Bank Circle were traditionally the spots for midnight flag hoisting. #SatyamevaJayate wants to keep alive this tradition after having revived it since 2023, said the organisers.

Stalls during the #SatyamevaJayate event for the 79th Independence Day at RBANM's High School grounds in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

According to them, the motive of the event was to bring together people from different walks of life and showcase the founding values of the nation that the artistes espouse through their work.

"It is a call to understand the spirit of the freedom struggle which gave birth to our Constitution so that we can engage with the Constitution in meaningful ways and build a humane society steeped in ideals of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," said a statement from the collective.

I-Day offer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To commemorate the 79th Independence Day celebrations, the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (KSTDC) has announced a special offer for travellers. Tourists booking their stay at KSTDC's Mayura Hotels between August 15 and 22 will receive a 10% discount on their reservations through online bookings. To avail the discount, customers must use the promo code Independence79@KSTDC during the booking process.

Woman sells newborn; seeks help to get it back

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Devarajeevana Halli police on Tuesday registered a case of human trafficking against three persons for allegedly buying a newborn girl for ₹2.5 lakh from her mother.

The complainant, Naseema Babu, 33, a resident of Vinoba Nagar, in her complaint admitted that she had sold her fourth newborn child to Amuda, Ramya, and Kannan as she was in dire need of money.

Naseema sold the youngest daughter soon after the delivery on July 26.

Later, she realised the mistake and asked the accused to return the baby. When the accused refused, Naseema approached the police and filed a complaint.

City's streets painted in hues of tricolour

Priyanka Vaadulasha
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's streets on Thursday were painted in the tricolours ahead of the 79th Independence Day, with roadside stalls and markets doing brisk business in the sale of flags, badges, caps, and themed merchandise as the city geared up for the August 15 celebrations.

The streets of Shivajinagar and K.R. Market had undergone a transformation. While the usual chaos of vegetable carts and flower stalls still prevailed, the lanes were characterised by tricolour hues. Mobile carts carrying flags of all sizes fluttered, while street hawkers presented their latest tricolour charms and trinkets, pursuing their customers. For the street vendors of these markets, I-Day is much more than a celebration. "We've been running this shop for over 40 years, and it's the same kind of excitement that you get to see," said Sadiq, a shopowner in K.R. Market. The merchandise has evolved along with pin-on badges, little flags, and Gandhi *topis*. People today look for LED-lit wristbands, scrunchies, and phone covers, according to shopkeepers, who see the season as the best for their businesses.

With digitalisation and online stores gaining traction, Kashif, the owner of a t-shirt cart in Shivajinagar, points out: "My brother and I print and sell them on my WhatsApp channel to reach more consumers."

Amid rising awareness and regulations, eco-friendly items are gaining popularity. Cotton flags stitched in Shivajinagar's lanes have started competing with the fast-produced plastic ones.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, AUG. 15	
RISE	06:07 SET 18:41
RISE	23:14 SET 11:26
SATURDAY, AUG. 16	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:40
RISE	00:00 SET 12:26
SUNDAY, AUG. 17	
RISE	06:08 SET 18:39
RISE	00:07 SET 13:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	24
Mysuru	27	20
Bengaluru	23	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. BE-29-2025-26-OT-10 (through E-Tendering)
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Description of work	Approx. Value
Modification for 4th, 3rd and 1st floor of Divisional Railway Manager's building and Provision of one escalator on Platform-4 of Kengeri railway station- Electrical arrangements. **Period of completion :** 06 Months.	Rs. 95,24,648.00

Last Date for Submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 29.08.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General PUB/380/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Bengaluru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that our Client **Mr.Neyas Anand S/o Dafee Sidhanandhan,** Aged about 38 years, No.705, Block Robin Sattva Celesta, T C Palaya, Battarahalli, Bangalore -560 049, filed a suit in O.S. No. 1341/2025 the said case was allotted to Hon'ble II ASCJ, Bangalore Rural Dist, Bangalore, suit is filed for Specific Performance of the sale agreement dated 18/12/2023 (to purchase the suit schedule B property) and the Hon'ble Court was pleased to pass an Interim order on 19/07/2025, against the Defendants i.e M/s Hinduja Projects Represented by Sunil Hinduja, the order read as "Pending consideration of IA No.1, issue an order of add Interim Ex-Parte temporary Injunction against the Defendants" in respect of the property mentioned in the Schedule B hereunder.
Our Client got credible information that the Defendants are trying to sell the Schedule B property to other persons. Hence it is informed that if anybody is dealing with the schedule B property with M/s Hinduja Projects by violating the court order, they will be doing at their own cost and risk.
SCHEDULE A PROPERTY
All that Properties measuring (i) 00 Acre 06 Guntas in Sy.No.88/1 i) 00 Acre 37.08 Guntas in Sy.No. 88/2 iii) 00 Acre 22 Guntas in Sy.No.88/3 (iv)00 Acre 11 Guntas in Sy.No.89/1 (v) 00 Acre 37.08 Guntas in Sy.No.89/2 and (vi) 00 Acre 15.08 Guntas in Sy.No.89/4 in all measuring 3 Acres 09.08 Guntas (less area relinquished to Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike) situated at Thirumenahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk duly converted for non-agricultural residential use vide Conversion Order dated 22/10/2016 bearing No.A.L.N(N.A.Y) SR/39/2016-2017 issued by The Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike bearing Municipal No.130/88/1,88/2,88/3,89/1,89/2,89/4 at Ward No.5 of Jakkur and bounded by:
East : Private Property, West: Remaining portion of property in Sy.no.88 and 89, North: Private Property, South: Road
SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
All that Residential villament bearing No.02 Ground floor and Part of First Floor of Block 'Sunflower" in the Project viz. "HINDUJA EL JARDIN" built in Schedule "A" property and villament measuring 1474 Sq. Feet of carpet area and including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use and totally measuring 1882 Sq. Feet of super built up area and reservation for right to use of 2 valet covered car parking space, exclusive use of 392 Sq. Feet of Garden Space, and UDS of 1101Sq.Feet and bounded on the:
East : Open Courtyard, West : Private Property, North : Lavender 01, South : Sunflower Block
Adv. C.V. Siju, M/s. LAW LINKS,
305, 3rd Floor, Sophia's Choice,
St.Marks Road, Bangalore-1.
E-mail : advcvsiju@gmail.com,
Mob : 9845062318 / 9902062318.

FORM No.14
[See Regulation 33(2)
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - 1/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
Government of India, Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services
Debt Recovery Tribunal - II Karnataka (Bengaluru), 4th Floor, Telephone House Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pincode - 560001
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC/22/2020
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Versus
M/S COVALENT & OTHERS
To
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
Hudson Circle Bengaluru City Branch
1st Floor Vokkaligara Bhavana Hudson Circle
Bengaluru-560027
Represented by its Chief Manager
Mr D Edwin Jaya Raj
S/o Mr V Devadasan-560027
CERTIFICATE HOLDER
1. M/S COVALENT
Office At No 48 2nd Main Road
Palace Guttahalli Bengaluru
Prop Mr Roshan Paramashivaiah
560003
Also At:
Ravi Edible Oli Refinery
Compound Sy No 46/2
Bisuvanahalli Village, Doddaballapura
Bengaluru Rural Dis-561203
2. **MR ROSHAN PARAMASHIVAIAH**
S/o Sri Paramashivaiah
Prop of Defendant No 1
R at No 48 2nd Main Road
Palace Guttahalli -560003 Bengaluru
3. **MR V SRINIVASA**
S/o Venkateshappa
No 106A Kurandahalli Village
Huriagere Post Malur Taluk
Kolar Dis-563130
CD Nos 1 to 3 are residing at
No. 106A, Kuranjahalli
Huriagere Post, Malur Tq, Kolar Dt,
Karnataka-563130
CERTIFICATE DEBTORS
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) in **OA/1032/2018** an amount of **Rs 34011035.00 (Rupees Three Crore Forty Lakhs Eleven Thousands Thirty Five Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest @ 14.05% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. **08/05/2018** till realization and costs of **Rs 150755 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Seven Hundred Fifty Five Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **12.08.2020.**
Recovery Officer-2
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT-2)

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

BJP accuses State govt. of 'smear campaign' against Dharmasthala

Opposition members question the manner in which the Special Investigation Team was conducting a probe into the alleged case of mass burials at Dharmasthala; they demand tabling of an interim report on the probe

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday questioned the manner in which the Special Investigation Team (SIT) was conducting a probe into the alleged case of mass burials at Dharmasthala and accused the Congress government of a "smear campaign" against the Dharmasthala temple and its pattadhikari D. Veerendra Heggade.

Former Minister V. Sunil Kumar, who initiated the debate in the Legislative Assembly, alleged that under the pretext of the probe, the government had "hatched a conspiracy" to spread falsehood against Hindu dharma and the place.

Not a single FIR had been filed despite hundreds of social media posts "slandering" the temple, Shri Manjunatha Swamy, and Dr. Heggade, he said, and questioned the government's silence.

SIT personnel excavating at site no. 13 in Dharmasthala on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

There had been a deliberate smear campaign by certain individuals and the government's apparent sympathy towards them has raised suspicion, the BJP leader claimed.

Stating that no one was opposing justice for Soujanya, who was murdered in 2012, he said some YouTubers, in the name of freedom of expression, were attacking religious beliefs.

The BJP member questioned the government's "agenda" behind the probe and suspected the role of the INDIA bloc and the Congress high command in the entire episode.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, members S. Suresh Kumar, Araga Jnanendra, B.Y. Vijayendra, Harish Poonja, S.R. Vishwanath, Aravind Bellad (all BJP), and Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal spoke against the government and demanded continuation of SIT probe to identify the people, organisations, and alleged source of funding behind the "smear campaign" against the temple.

Mr. Suresh Kumar claimed the SIT had "no common sense" and it has been dancing to the tunes of the complainant.

Mr. Ashok claimed there was "a gang" behind the complaint and it had put pressure on the Chief Minister to order the probe.

Terming the mask-wearing person (the complainant) as "Spiderman" who had been enjoying all privileges, he said lakhs of taxpayers' money had been spent on the digging. He demanded a NIA probe.

Mr. Poonja demanded that the SIT report be made public. Mr. Jnanendra said the police should have conducted a preliminary probe of the complainant before starting the digging.

Mr. Yatnal warned a "Ayodhya-like movement will be launched" if the government did not stop.

All BJP members demanded a halt on the social media posts, a narco test of the complainant, and tabling of the interim probe report.

DKS: Massive conspiracy against Dharmasthala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a surprise statement, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar suspected a "massive conspiracy" to tarnish the image of Dharmasthala and also the role of a possible internal feud.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, he said: "I believe in Dharmasthala and its administrative board. This place has lakhs of devotees and let's not politicise this."

Mr. Shivakumar argued that Dharmasthala and the trust associated with it were doing yeoman service, but someone had alleged crimes owing to an internal feud.

"When many complaints have come, the Home Minister or the government can't ignore them," he told BJP leaders. "Don't you need a probe for Dr. Heggade to come clean?"

The Home Minister is expected to provide a detailed reply on Monday.

Rajanna's sacking: CM says he owes no justification

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In his first public reaction on the sacking of his close aide and Cabinet colleague K.N. Rajanna, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said that removing a Minister was his discretion and no justification was needed. His response to the Opposition demand for an explanation came at the Legislative Council. "Why should the Chief Minister speak about the internal matters of the party?," he argued.

The Opposition had been seeking the reason for Mr. Rajanna's sacking, and Leader of the House N.S. Boseraju on Tuesday also said that it was the discretion of the Chief Minister. Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy asked the Chief Minister the reason for sacking Mr. Rajanna, and said: "You have removed a Scheduled Tribes leader. You should give the reason."

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Council on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When he tried to point out at the assurance given by the Leader of Opposition that a response would be provided, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti intervened and said that the House Leader had already mentioned that it was the discretion of the government.

Drama unfolded after the Chief Minister prepared to leave the House amid a demand from the Opposition to respond. As Opposition members asked him not to "run away" without providing an answer, a miffed Chief Minister returned to his seat and said: "I will not answer your question. The House leader has already replied."

When Mr. Narayanaswamy said that it was the Congress' "anti-Dalit" culture, the incensed Chief Minister said: "That is your culture and not ours. Did Vice-President Jaideep Dhankar not resign? Did you discuss it? Did anyone give reason as to why B.S. Yediyurappa resigned as Chief Minister? Why was Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal expelled? These are internal matters, which need not be discussed."

SIT probe aimed at revealing truth: Home Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In reply to the Opposition's remarks against the government, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the probe "should not take a political or a dharmic turn."

In a terse reply, he said: "We have not formed SIT under any pressure. The probe is aimed at unearthing the truth and ensuring justice. We have huge respect for Dharmasthala."

He noted the rural development and women empowerment projects, education provided to lakhs of students by trusts headed by the pattadhikari and asked BJP members:

Wild elephants killed 97 people in three years, says Khandre

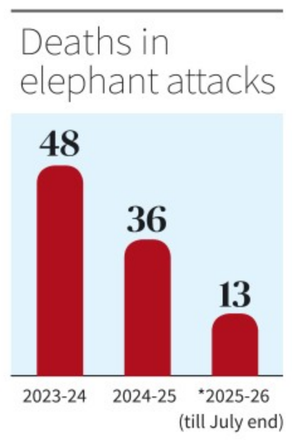
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre informed the Legislative Assembly that wild elephants have trampled to death 97 people in the State during the last three years. The government has paid ₹13.65 crore as compensation.

In a reply to Harish Poonja of the BJP, Mr. Khandre said wild elephants attacked and killed 48 people in 2023-24, 36 in 2024-25, and 13 people till this July-end.

For reducing man-animal conflicts, he said 428 km of railway barricades had been erected till now and eight elephant task forces had been formed.

The Minister said an increase in the number of wild elephants and wild animals, coupled with reduced forest areas, led to man-animal conflicts.



From Page One

Darshan arrested after SC cancels bail

The top court said it was compelled to employ its extraordinary jurisdiction to interfere in the personal liberty of the actor as his continuation on bail during the trial process would be a real and imminent danger and may even derail justice.

The apex court had said during the hearing that the High Court had virtually "dictated an order of acquittal" in a "perverse exercise" of discretionary power.

The judgment came on a petition filed by the State of Karnataka, represented by senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, against the High Court's December 13, 2024 verdict granting bail to Darshan and the co-accused.

Darshan, who was out of station, returned to the city after the police conveyed a message about the Supreme Court's bail cancellation and asked him to appear before them. He was arrested soon after he landed at his wife's apartment at Hosakerehalli in Bengaluru.

Earlier, the police arrested his friend and accused no. 1 in the Renukaswamy murder case, Pavithra Gowda, and six others and took them to the Annapoorneshwari Nagar police station to complete the formalities.

Darshan, along with Pavithra Gowda and several others, are accused of abducting and torturing 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a fan, who allegedly sent obscene messages to Pavithra Gowda.

(With inputs from Imran Gowhar in Bengaluru)

Screening for cab and auto drivers will be conducted, says Dinesh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Thursday informed the Legislative Assembly that a separate screening would be conducted for auto and cab drivers as they are prone to cardiac arrest.

Replying to a question of H.D. Revanna, which was asked by A. Manju (JD-S) on the former's behalf, the Minister said: "Pollution, not much sleep, and uncertain food habits are causing heart attacks. The government is specifically talking to auto and cab drivers' associations for taking up health programmes."

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil said a committee headed by Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research director Ravindranath was formed to look into the deaths owing to heart attacks in Hassan.

Dr. Patil said the major reasons for cardiac arrests were inadequate physical activity, unhealthy food habits, work pressure, body weight, excessive drinking, diabetes, blood pressure.

Panel report on quota: Cabinet discussion deferred to August 19

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid serious differences between the Dalit right (Holeyas) and the Dalit left (Madigas) over the report on internal reservation submitted by the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission, the State government on Thursday deferred the special Cabinet meeting on Saturday over a lack of consensus among Ministers. The meeting will now be on August 19.

While the Dalit left and microscopic SC communities have started an indefinite protest at Freedom Park here demanding the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, the Dalit right and allied castes have petitioned the government to disregard the report.

Government sources said that the differences between the two groups have exploded with Ministers from the Dalit right and touchable communities opposing the report and the Dalit left Ministers seeking its implementation.

Sources said that a meeting of Ministers had been convened at the residence of Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Federation for Social Justice for Scheduled Castes, which has been holding a protest in Bengaluru since August 11, met the Chief Minister on Thursday. They apprised him of their plans of an indefinite fast from Friday, but deferred it after the Chief Minister's assurance of addressing their concerns.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023,
Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:cekhsdrp@gmail.com

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1&2/AE-2&7/Tender/2025-26/1644 Date: 13.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD/ in two Cover tender document system through KPP Portal for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. In Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. In Lakh)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Repair works to ABCD staff quarters at DIMHANS, Dharwad.	127.00	2.00	6 Months
2	Construction of Second Floor on the existing Paediatric Block in the premises of MIMS at Mandya.	314.00	4.80	9 Months

Calendar of Events: Sl.No.1: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **28.08.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **29.08.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**
Calendar of Events: Sl.No. 2: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **15.09.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **16.09.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender.
NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. **(2)** Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP portal.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

Karnataka Public Work Department
(A Government of KarnatakaEnterprises) O/O Executive Engineer PWD Division, Hosapete, Dist:-Vijayanagara

No:EE/PWD/Dn/Hosapete/TND/ AE-1 /2025-26/1691 Date:- 13.08.2025

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Tenders are invited by undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara Dist, for the works notified in the statement below. The bid shall be in One or Two Cover system namely technical bid and financial bid through KPP Portal, following the link https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl. No	Work Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
	THIS WORK IS RESERVED FOR SC CATOGERY	
1	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT18063/CALL-2	50.00
	THIS WORK IS RESERVED FOR CATOGERY-1	
2	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22731	90.00
	THIS WORK IS RESERVED FOR CATOGERY-2A	
3	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT21863	70.00
	General Works	
4	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22232	36.00
5	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT6722	200.00
6	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22727	300.00
7	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22728	290.00
8	PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22725	300.00

1.Quarries of Tender On: **As Per kppp Portal.** 2.Last Date of Tender Submission On: **25.08.2025@ 16.00 Hours.** 3.Tender Opening date On: **26.08.2025@ 16.30 Hours.** 4.Financial Bid Opening Date: **As Per kppp Portal.**
Note: Any Changes Either in Tender date or any other condition , Tenderers can view in kppp Portal and Will not be published in News Paper.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/ KSMCA/RO No/199
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Hosapete, Vijayanagara District.

Caste census: It is a must to enter Aadhaar details of all people above six being enumerated during survey

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has set the ball rolling for the second socio-educational survey of the State's population to identify the status of the backward classes, with an order issued to this effect on Thursday. Importantly, entering the Aadhaar of all people above the age of six being enumerated with the other details has been made mandatory.

A file photo of an enumerator taking details during the 2015 socio-educational survey.

While the deployment of teachers for the enumeration work has become a bone of contention, with Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa voicing his opposition, the State government has asked officials, teachers, and others to work under the supervision of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

The survey, the order said, will be conducted digitally, and the required digital support will be given by the e-Governance Department.

SC survey

One of the important aspects of the survey is entering the Aadhaar of the individual above the age of six during the survey. A similar method had been implemented in the survey on Scheduled Castes population conducted by the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission. The entry of Aadhaar is expected to make the survey more robust and accountable.

In the first survey conducted by the H. Kantharaj Commission in 2015, the Aadhaar of the persons had not been entered, and caste groups, which were opposed to the findings, attacked the survey as "unscientific" and error-prone.

The government has asked the commission to utilise publicly available electoral rolls on the lines of the survey of Scheduled Castes.

The Congress government, in June, announced re-enumeration of caste data in Karnataka to address concerns of some communities who complained of being left out of the survey that was conducted 10 years ago.

Federal balance is a key democracy indicator

M.K. Stalin
is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

In a true federal system, States should not have to protest, litigate, or plead for their rightful share of revenues. Such a situation affects not only the development of the State, but also the unity of India.

India attained its political Independence in 1947. But this was not achieved ordinarily; it was the culmination of a tumultuous, three-century-long struggle for freedom.

From those who took up arms against the repressive British Rule to those who chose the path of non-violent resistance and laid down their lives, countless martyrs walked this soil. The nation's Independence was not gifted. It was earned through blood, sweat, breath, will, and sacrifice.

This historic struggle was not confined to any one region, community, or linguistic group. From Kanniyakumari to the Himalayas, people across all States, irrespective of language, religion, ethnicity, or culture, rallied behind the idea of an Independent India. It was truly a nationwide movement. The political freedom it secured was envisioned by our leaders to be collective, an India that belongs to everyone.

It was this spirit that led to the formulation of one of our most enduring ideals: "Unity in diversity". Despite our differences of race, language, state, and faith, our leaders fostered the vision of a shared national identity. Foreign powers doubted this unity, predicting that a newly liberated India would fragment within years. But we have defied such expectations for over 75 years, because of our unshakable commitment to unity in diversity.

India is home to many nationalities. To ensure harmony among them, our States were reorganised along linguistic lines. The Constitution of India defines the country as a "Union of States", a deliberate and foundational expression. The Planning Commission was established to ensure equitable development across all regions, with Five-Year Plans laid out for national progress.

Linguistic diversity is a defining feature of India. Jawaharlal Nehru, our first Prime Minister, assured the nation that Hindi would not be imposed as long as non-Hindi speaking people wanted it. Whenever the Union government's decisions seemed to favour Hindi at the cost of other languages, the backlash was strong, and many such decisions were withdrawn. It is a matter of record that the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, under Chief Minister Perarignar Anna, passed a resolution affirming Tamil and English as sufficient for official use, a position accepted by the Union government.

India is equally home to people of many faiths, and yet, we are a secular state. The Indian Constitution affirms secularism not just in principle, but in the very Preamble that frames our Republic. Together, these ideals have transformed India's political Independence into a collective freedom, one that belongs to all.

Yet, there is a section which fails to understand the full import of what we seek when we articulate emancipatory ideas such as cooperative federalism, State autonomy, social justice, religious harmony, and linguistic rights. We have been consistent in our position that for India to function as a true federal union, its States must be empowered with real autonomy. We have given enough empirical evidence for sufficient devolution of power.

That is why visionary leaders who championed State autonomy asserted that aside from subjects such as Defence, External Affairs,

In one of the most impressive ceremonies connected with the Declaration of Independence, the National Flag was hoisted over the turreted battlements of the Red Fort in Delhi on August 16, 1947 by Jawaharlal Nehru. THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

and Currency, all other rights and responsibilities must rest with the States. Even the carefully structured division of powers in our Constitution, the Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List, has been gradually eroded. Matters in the Concurrent List have been subsumed into the Union List. State List subjects are being steadily encroached upon. Even the Union's obligations towards the States under the Union List are increasingly unmet. This is the grave crisis that several Indian States have been forced to face since the BJP came to power in 2014.

When our party came to power for the first time, one of the major initiatives was forming a high-level committee to frame the desirable and enduring relationship between States and the Union by forming the Rajamannar Committee. The committee recommendations became a Legislative resolution in 1974. Despite being a pioneer advocating the spirit of cooperative federalism, it was penalised for its performance because of the lopsided distribution of power.

Since we assumed office in 2021, Tamil Nadu's development has been reaching remarkable heights. For the financial year 2024-25, the State's economy recorded an impressive growth rate of 11.19%, a double-digit figure achieved for the first time in 14 years.

Tamil Nadu is now the fastest-growing large economy in India, a distinction no other major State can currently claim. This growth has been achieved amidst numerous challenges. It represents the highest economic growth rate in the country. But the Union is penalising the State for its exceptional performance.

In recent years, Tamil Nadu has seen exponential growth in exports, particularly in electronics, with exports increasing ninefold over four years.

According to EPFO data, the number of registered employees in the State has grown by nearly one crore in the past five years. Based on this trajectory, we have set ourselves an ambitious but achievable target: to transform Tamil Nadu into a five-trillion-dollar economy by 2047.

But we do not believe in isolated development. Tamil Nadu's growth is a critical pillar of India's overall progress. I have said this, unequivocally and on record, in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India: "Tamil Nadu's performance will be a significant contributor to India's aspiration of becoming a 30-trillion-dollar economy by 2047." Why then is there such hesitation within the Union government to recognise and embrace Tamil Nadu's progress as part of India's success story? The current Prime Minister served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat for 12 years. He often spoke passionately about State rights. Why then there is a change in the tone and tenor of the Prime Minister when it comes to the crucial question of State powers?

In 2015, then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced an AIIMS for Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister laid its foundation stone in Madurai before the 2019 election. Six years on, the building remains unconstructed. Should we not question such neglect?

Tamil Nadu has been denied nearly ₹2,200 crore in funds under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for 2024-25 on the grounds that it did not sign an MoU relating to the entirely separate 'PM SHRI' scheme. They are two entirely different schemes. Why should the School Development Scheme be linked to the State's language policy? The result is that disadvantaged children, including those protected under the Right to Education Act, are deprived of crucial educational support. Is it wrong if people perceive this as a fascist spirit?

The Union government routinely announces Centrally sponsored schemes but fails to allocate its share of the funding. The Tamil Nadu government is forced to not only contribute its own share but also compensate for the Union's default. The rising share of State contributions in schemes jointly implemented by the Union and State governments continues to strain the finances of States such as Tamil Nadu. Is this not a clear manifestation of an authoritarian mindset that believes, "No one can question us"?

The 15th Finance Commission recommended that 41% of the Union's tax revenue be devolved to the States. But over the past four years, only 33.16% has been shared. This amounts to a betrayal of the States. We continue to insist that a fair allocation would see this figure raised to 50%. In a true federal system, States should not have to protest, litigate, or plead for their rightful share of revenues. Such a situation affects not only the development of the State, but also the unity of India. Governors in many States, including Tamil Nadu, have become obstacles to development, acting as roadblocks rather than facilitators. Despite clear and repeated judgments from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the gubernatorial overreach continues. Every time we pass a Bill and send it to the Governor for assent, we are left with no choice but to move the Supreme Court as well. This repeated compulsion is not just an insult to legislative authority – it is a betrayal of the Constitution and of democracy itself.

Hence, to secure the just rights for States, we have constituted the High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court judges like Justice Kurian Joseph. Hope at least the recommendation of this committee will become a national norm and bring about changes in the present dominance-dependence equation between the Union and the States, replacing it with a true federal spirit where the inalienable rights of the States are not trampled upon.

'Immersion of ashes in Cauvery only at 4 spots'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Mandya district administration has formulated guidelines for immersion of ashes in the Cauvery at four designated locations in Srirangapatna. The goal is to curb unregulated immersion of ashes at random places along the riverbanks.

The immersion of ashes of the deceased is traditionally conducted at Srirangapatna. This practice has a hoary past, especially at Paschimavahini, which is considered a sacred place for the purpose.

The ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were immersed in different rivers across India. One of the urns containing his ashes was immersed at Paschimavahini. There is a plaque marking the site of the immersion. But the practice has become unregulated with people immersing ashes at random places along the river, adding to the pollution of the Cauvery.

In order to curb unregulated immersion of ashes and prevent pollution of the river, Mandya Deputy Commissioner Kumar said that rules had been framed for the purpose. The practice would be monitored by an agency that has been awarded the tender in this regard.

At a meeting with officials in Mandya on Thursday, Dr. Kumar said the designated places for immersing ashes were Paschimavahini, Snana ghata or bathing ghats, Gosai Ghat and Sangama.

Sharanabaswappa Appa passes away

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Sharanabasawappa Appa

Eighth Peethadhipathi of the Sharanabasaveshwara Samsthan Sharanabaswappa Appa, who was founder-chancellor of Sharnbasva University in Kalaburagi, passed away late on Thursday. He was 91.

He is survived by seven daughters and a son - four daughters from his first wife and three daughters and a son from his second wife. His nine-year-old son Doddappa Appa was crowned as the ninth Peethadhipathi of the samsthan in February 2022 at the age of four to succeed his father. Appa was suffering from age-related ailments for the last few months. He was admitted to a private hospital in the city on July 25 after developing a respiratory infection and was on life support since then.

At 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, he was taken to his residence at Dasoha Mahamane on the Sharana Basaveshwara Temple premises, where a makeshift ICU was set up earlier in the day.

All care and supportive medications were continued until his last breath. By 9.23 p.m., he breathed his last.

State authorities expected to implement ban on PoP idols, says Karnataka High Court

The court says it is not inclined to pass any order as the government notification issued in 2023 in this regard is in force and it is for the authorities to implement their own orders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday said that it expects the State government and its authorities, with all seriousness, implement the government's order of banning manufacture, distribution, and sale of idols made from plaster of Paris (PoP) in accordance with the law.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), which had sought a direction to the Urban Development Department (UDD) and other authorities of the State to implement the notification issued on September 15, 2023, banning PoP idols.

While declining to issue any specific direction on the issue of manufacture, distribution, sale, etc., of PoP idols, the bench said that it is not inclined to pass any order as the government notification issued in 2023 in this regard is in force and it is for the authorities to implement their own orders.

The KSPCB, in its petition, had said that despite the ban order, there are manufactures of PoP idols, and one in one such instance a PoP idol manufacturing unit, situated at Kumbalgodu near Kengeri, was sealed. Despite this action, surreptitiously PoP idols in the sealed unit were being removed for sale. However, the government counsel pointed out to the bench that a First Information Report (FIR) was registered in connection with the manufacture of PoP idols at Kumbalgodu unit and further actions are under way.

The court passed the order while disposing of a petition filed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), which had sought a direction to the UDD and other authorities of the State to implement the notification issued on September 15, 2023, banning PoP idols FILE PHOTO

'Will make arrangements for supply of fertilizer'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Agriculture Shivaraj Singh Chauhan has assured Karnataka, facing urea shortage, of making arrangements to supply the remaining quantum of fertilizers from the allocated share to help tide over the shortage, according to Karnataka Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy.

In an official note, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said the Union Minister had made the assurance at a video conference of State Agriculture Ministers. Responding to an appeal by him to make up for the short supply from the Centre, the Union Minister had said that he would talk to the Secretary to the Union Fertilizers' Ministry and make arrangements, he noted.

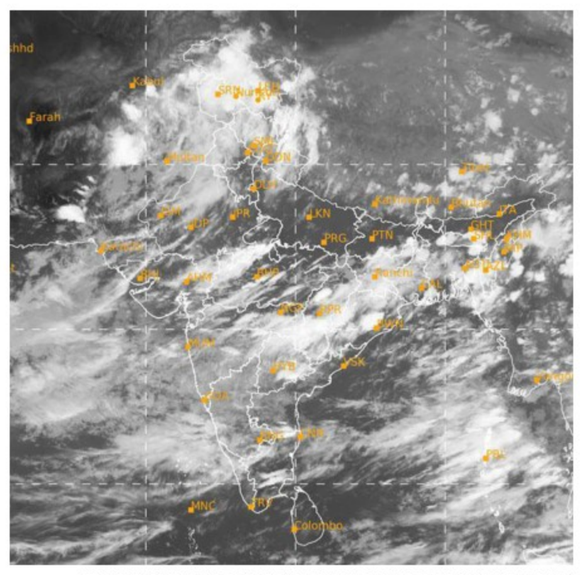
At the videoconference, Karnataka again blamed the Centre's short supply for the urea shortage in the State, and appealed to it to immediately provide the remaining stock of 2.67 lakh tonnes.

Giving the break-up of the urea shortage, Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy told Mr. Chauhan that the shortage in the State stood at 1.27 lakh tonnes in July and 1.4 lakh tonnes in August.

Pointing out that the south-west monsoon is the mainstay for the State's agricultural sector and sowing would gain steam by August-September, the Minister expressed concern that the sowing and standing crops may get hit if farmers did not get adequate fertilizers on time.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	31.7	26.2	Kozhikode	7	30.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.4	27.0	Kurnool	8	28.9	22.3
Aizawl	5.1	31.3	20.5	Lucknow	118	33.0	24.1
Allahabad	4	34.4	26.3	Madurai	—	38.5	25.1
Bengaluru	0.4	24.8	19.4	Mangaluru	45.9	24.4	22.3
Bhopal	5	31.3	23.9	Mumbai	50	31.0	24.5
Bhubaneswar	6.7	32.7	25.5	Mysuru	—	27.0	20.0
Chandigarh	12	28.7	25.5	New Delhi	13	27.7	23.6
Chennai	0.3	34.1	26.0	Patna	29	32.6	26.0
Coimbatore	—	30.2	22.2	Port Blair	16	29.4	24.2
Dehradun	52	26.8	22.8	Puducherry	—	34.2	25.2
Gangtok	56	21.7	17.8	Pune	0.2	30.6	24.2
Goa	83	26.4	23.0	Raipur	—	33.1	25.4
Guwahati	13	33.4	24.8	Ranchi	3	30.0	22.8
Hubballi	—	24.0	22.0	Shillong	8	24.5	17.5
Hyderabad	5	28.0	21.6	Shimla	69	20.4	17.2
Imphal	—	28.9	24.1	Srinagar	—	29.5	23.6
Jaipur	—	29.6	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	18	30.3	23.3
Kochi	6	30.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	35.3	26.0
Kohima	15	22.2	18.0	Vijayawada	130	32.6	24.2
Kolkata	5	31.7	26.2	Visakhapatnam	6	32.0	26.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	.14	.82	36	79	
Bengaluru	.6	.25	.29	50	60	
Chennai	.11	.17	.69	45	65	
Delhi	.68	.62	.33	114	115	
Hyderabad	.15	.14	.35	48	78	
Kolkata	.3	114	.19	35	32	
Lucknow	.54	.12	.56	46	40	
Mumbai	.16	.21	.93	22	28	
Pune	.—	.23	101	11	24	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.31	.21	53	77	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Aurangabad, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 273 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

TDP wins ZPTC byelections

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) emerged victorious in the byelections held to the two Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) seats. Mareddy Latha Reddy of TDP wrested the Pulivendula ZP seat by a margin of 6,052 votes. Addaluru Muddukrishna Reddy of the TDP secured 12,780 votes in the Vontimitta ZPTC seat.

Crossing a line

The drive against illegal immigrants is hurting Indian citizens too

Police in several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States are trying to identify undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants by their language: Bengali. This approach has led to some comical errors, such as the Delhi police listing "Bangladeshi" as a language – a massive leap in linguistics. However, in most cases, this has become a tragic and farcical exercise. Several documented instances have shown Indian citizens being pushed across the border into Bangladesh. This has caused significant hardship for the families involved and embarrassment to the government. Some individuals have been repatriated to their families in West Bengal after intervention by the State government or courts. This "pushback" of suspected Bangladeshis is a part of a larger effort to bypass the due process of law, which is often lengthy and rigorous. The rounding up of Bengali speakers has sparked a debate in West Bengal, where the ruling party, the Trinamool Congress, has called it an "attack on Bengali identity" and launched a language movement.

The targeting of Bengali migrants has immediate consequences for their livelihoods. Fearing detention and forced relocation to Bangladesh – a country to which they may have no connection – many migrant workers from West Bengal have left their jobs. In one particular case, Delhi police detained Bengali speakers who had been granted Indian citizenship under a well-known land exchange treaty with Bangladesh signed by the Narendra Modi government. Bengali is India's second-largest language by number of speakers. The State of West Bengal is both a source and a destination for migrant workers. The divisions being created over language and identity could easily escalate into conflict and violence. Even for the BJP, this exercise makes little political sense and may be counterproductive ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections in West Bengal. The migrant workers from West Bengal who are being harassed in other States do not belong to a single community. BJP leaders in West Bengal are already facing criticism over the issue and are setting up camps to assist citizens with the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in various constituencies across the State. The issue of Bangladeshi citizens entering and working in India is not new. For decades, people from the neighbouring country have entered India for political and social reasons, including better economic opportunities. The boundaries of India are a creation of colonialism and a violent history of political conflicts. While sovereign borders must be protected, the central government must ensure that law enforcement does not become counterproductive and lead to the harassment of its citizens.

Ceremonial heads

Governors as chancellors do more harm than good in universities

The Supreme Court of India's strong censure of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi in April seems to have done little to slow down the collision course that many Governors have been on with the respective State governments. Not only did the Court rule against the Governor casting a de-facto veto on 10 Bills relating to universities passed by the State legislature but it also specified timelines for the Governor's response to Bills. Importantly, it declared infructuous any Presidential intervention based on the Governor's recommendation. Last week, Mr. Ravi had referred the Kalaignar University Bill to the President instead of giving it his assent. In Kerala, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has kicked off yet another controversy after directing State-run universities to observe a 'Partition horrors day' on August 14, drawing criticism about possible ideological and communal motives. His predecessor, Arif Mohammed Khan, had also locked horns with the government, sitting on and practically vetoing Bills especially relating to universities. The Court's line has been de-facto challenged by the President, but through a reference.

State-owned universities have become the key battlegrounds in the Governor-State government conflicts. They are among the few institutions over which the Governor has a direct say. As scholars point out, the office of the Governor was a colonial mechanism of control over provinces that may be ruled by Indian parties. That the universities had British Governors as their ceremonial heads, or rather Chancellors, was to bring colonial prestige and ensure their autonomy and importance. India's early national-level leaders retained the Governor as a central appointee to guard against separatist tendencies. It appears that legislation in many States retained the role of Governors as Chancellors of State-run universities to give them the same colonial veneer and aura. Even a Tamil Nadu Bill that had sought to minimise the Governor's role in Vice-Chancellor appointments did not seek to remove the Governor as Chancellor of the university. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the Governors are central proxies with a hostile political and ideological agenda. Meanwhile, draft UGC regulations seek to divest State governments of their role in the selection of the Vice-Chancellor, vesting all powers in the Chancellor. But the thrust of the National Education Policy 2020 has been towards greater autonomy for educational institutions. Universities are expected to raise funds and be accountable for spending. A university head's role is expected to be not just academic and administrative but also that of a business manager, cheerleader and fundraiser. It may make sense to have professionals become the ceremonial as well as executive heads of universities, replacing Governors.

Honour India's legacy, defend its democracy

Pinarayi Vijayan

is the Chief Minister of Kerala

Every year, we celebrate our nation's attainment of political freedom from British imperialism and reiterate our loyalty to the ideals that our founding fathers fought for. In that sense, August 15 stands as a strong reminder of the long journey that shaped our nation: a heroic struggle that united millions from diverse social, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds for a set of values and principles, including democracy, secularism, harmony and social progress. Celebrating Independence Day thus entails an introspection of how we, as a nation, have evolved over the years, and how the essential ideals of this constitutional republic have fared.

Essence of nationalism, its manipulations

Such contemplation should begin by recalling the roots of the nationalist struggle. Our leaders had a clear understanding of liberation; that it was not just replacing one flag with another but envisaging a clear path to realise a prosperous nation in which everyone had equal stature before the law and equal access to all resources. Such a notion emphasised cementing the self-dignity of people for thriving here and for standing up before the world. A true nationalist, in that sense, strives to improve the living standards of the least counted in the nation.

So, the question then is: have we, as a nation, realised the dreams of our founders in achieving prosperity, and in improving the lives of the deprived? Yes, we fared better in many economic and social indicators. But, has the living standard of the people at the bottom improved?

The answer is not that bright. Studies show that the wealth produced is increasingly accumulated in the coffers of a super minority who wield influence over policymakers and policymaking bodies.

The larger minority is reeling under distress due to skyrocketing inflation, unemployment, deprivation and malnourishment as a result of policies only favouring the aforementioned ultra-rich. A new socio-economic order has come about in which individual competition enabled by a market-driven economy rules the roost. People and classes not equipped with crucial competitive skills get driven out of this exploitative order. Farmers, whom the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had called the 'soul of the nation', are finding it increasingly difficult to sustain agricultural activities, and ending their lives in frustration. The economy is facing crippling stagnation caused by neoliberal policies. Such a depressing picture of our nation calls for immediate action by all to reverse the trend and follow the path set by leaders of the nationalist movement.

Raising issues affecting the commoners in public is with the intent of informing policymakers of their lapses by marking dissent. Mobilising public opinion around such pressing concerns of the people can never be incendiary or insurrectionary, but an extension of the valid apprehensions of any dutiful citizen. But, there have been concerted efforts to frame such valid criticism as detrimental to national integrity.

> Independence Day this year is a stark reminder of the state India is in; it is a reminder of how Indians should resist any moves to undermine the country's constitutional principles

Regressive forces twist the notions of nationalism and denounce those who raise voices of dissent as 'anti-nationals', endangering the nation. They divert the frustrations of the toiling public to the vortex of hate and bigotry by concocting a majoritarian communal identity and proclaiming it as the basis of our nation. Such a divisive ideology exacerbates polarisation in our society, leading to the emergence of assertions from minorities. In fact, the rise of this divisive politics runs counter to the legacy of our nationalist movement, which fought for a thriving, inclusive, constitutional republic. The current Indian scenario, in which majoritarian communal politics rules the roost, is something our nationalist leaders would not have dreamt of. People are subjected to brutalities for their lifestyles, eating habits and identity, minorities are framed as terrorists, and dissenting figures are silenced through intimidation or by the use of brute force. This Independence Day serves as a stark reminder of the state we are in, and how we should, unitedly, resist any moves to undermine the constitutional principles.

Constitutional framework, federalism

An important aspect of the Constitution is the federal division of duties in policymaking for both the Centre and States. The architects of the Constitution envisaged the discharge of roles as cooperative federalism in which both the Centre and States strengthen each other through constructive exchanges. While the Union has overarching authority in areas such as defence and foreign affairs, the States enjoy significant autonomy in public order, agriculture, education and health. Mechanisms such as State legislatures, the Governor's role, and fiscal sharing were conceived not to subordinate States but to ensure cooperative governance.

As B.R. Ambedkar famously stated, the Union is not simply a league of States – it has its sovereignty; but States are not mere appendages. The sanctity of that balance is what underpinned our democracy. In recent years, however, we have witnessed a systematic and unprecedented shift away from that constitutional equilibrium. The central government has advanced measures to diminish State autonomy – from pushing the 'One Nation, One Election' agenda to expanding the scope of central agencies in State governance.

This is not merely an electoral reform. It proposes aligning State Assembly terms with the Lok Sabha, and possibly truncating popular mandates. Critics rightly warn that this amounts to curtailing the right of State electorates to choose their representatives for a full five-year term. Such a move risks reducing States to mere administrative implements of the central executive, rather than equal partners in the federal Union.

At the same time, investigative bodies and central administrative mechanisms are increasingly being weaponised to influence politics in non-aligned State governments. The independence of institutions such as the Election Commission of India, the Directorate of Enforcement, and even the Governor's role faces serious challenges.

Manipulating Governor's powers

One of the most visible and damaging trends in this new phase of centralisation is the partisan misuse of the office of the Governor. Governors, who are constitutionally expected to act on the aid and the advice of the elected State government, are instead being deployed as political agents of the Union to block, delay, and obstruct governance in Opposition-ruled States.

In Kerala and several other States, the Governor has withheld assent to Bills duly passed by the State legislature, sometimes for months on end, without offering constitutional reasons. This effectively nullifies the legislative will of the people and disrupts policy implementation.

The interference has been especially acute in the higher education sector. Universities in Kerala, long respected for their academic autonomy, have faced an unprecedented freeze in appointments because the Governor – acting as Chancellor – has stalled or cancelled recruitment processes, and refused to approve names recommended by statutory bodies. This has paralysed key academic institutions, delayed crucial reforms, and left thousands of students and teachers facing uncertainty.

By turning the Governor's office into an instrument of political veto rather than a constitutional safeguard, the Centre undermines both the functioning of State governments and the vibrancy of India's education system. What should be a bridge between the Union and the State has been transformed into a roadblock.

This Independence Day, let us honour our national heritage by recommitting to a constitutional order that cherishes federalism, democratic pluralism, and popular constitutionalism. Let us resist trends that undermine State autonomy, misuse constitutional offices, and weaken the secular psyche of the polity.

Our struggle was never just to gain freedom from colonial rule. It was to build a union of free peoples, each with dignity and voice, held together not by coercion but by the shared ideals of constitutional democracy. That is the legacy we must defend today – with clarity, courage, and conviction.

Let us live by that pledge, so that the Republic we inherited remains vibrant and resilient for generations.

Only united action can stop the hyacinth's invasion

Venu Rajamony

is Chairman, Future Kerala Mission, Jain (deemed to be) University, Kochi and a former Ambassador of India to the Netherlands

Every monsoon, a quiet menace surges across India's waterways, turning glistening rivers, backwaters and lakes into green deserts. This threat is the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), an innocuous-looking aquatic plant which has delicate lilac flowers that belies its destructive power. Nowhere is its impact more pervasive than in Kerala – a State renowned for its intricate network of backwaters and the famed Vembanad Lake.

Introduced in India during colonial rule as an ornamental plant, the water hyacinth's prodigious growth has since overwhelmed the very ecosystems and communities it decorates. Today, it is estimated that over 2,00,000 hectares of inland waters nationwide have been smothered by this weed, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of countless Indians.

Crisis in Kerala

Farmers and fishermen are among the hardest hit. For paddy cultivators along the Kuttanad region of Kerala – known as the 'rice bowl of Kerala' – water hyacinth mats block irrigation channels, impede water flow, and choke fields, driving up the costs and efforts required to sustain agriculture. Fishermen find their traditional trade impossible as the dense mats strangle fish nurseries, undermine native fish populations, block access, and even damage nets and boats.

Worse, water hyacinth devastates aquatic biodiversity. By preventing sunlight and oxygen from penetrating the water's surface, these floating jungles suffocate everything below. Aquatic flora and fauna, already fighting pollution and over-extraction, are now forced to contend with ecological asphyxiation, unravelling entire food webs. The weed's unchecked proliferation is a direct threat to ecotourism as well. Vembanad Lake, a Ramsar-recognised wetland of international importance and a lifeline for lakhs of people, is emblematic of this crisis, with tourism and transport now at risk.

> A national policy with region-specific implementation strategies is what can end the grave damage being caused by this invasive aquatic plant

Yet, the hidden danger of the water hyacinth extends beyond livelihoods and biodiversity. As the plant rapidly accumulates and then decays, it releases methane – a greenhouse gas over 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide at trapping heat.

Experiments that must be scaled up

Recognising the need for solutions, innovators and communities across India have experimented with turning this 'pest' into a resource. In Odisha, imaginative women's self-help groups skilfully weave water hyacinth into handicrafts, baskets and furniture. In Assam and West Bengal, it has been transformed into paper and biogas production.

These experiments, though promising, remain isolated in scope and scale. What is urgently required is policy support, financial incentives and a robust value chain to scale them up.

Despite the creativity at the grass-roots, what is missing is a coordinated policy thrust in the effective management of the hyacinth menace. Currently, responsibility is diffused across multiple government departments – agriculture, fisheries, environment, irrigation – often leading to piecemeal and short-term efforts. The situation demands a single-point accountability mechanism and a national policy with region-specific implementation strategies. There is a need for coordinated removal drives using scientific methods and mechanisation with appropriate technology suited to local conditions in places such as Kerala where labour is not easily available. Innovators need to be incentivised and private sector partnerships established for value addition. Research into viable products (crafts, biofuels, compost textiles) also needs to be promoted and disseminated.

Solving the water hyacinth crisis is a mammoth task, but it is by no means insurmountable. Recently, Jain university in Kochi organised a brainstorming workshop under its Future Kerala Mission, bringing together experts, grass-roots practitioners, policymakers and businesses to reimagine water hyacinth as a bearer of sustainable livelihoods – rather than just viewing it as a pest.

The University has since decided to launch an awareness campaign and to release a discussion paper, inviting inputs that incorporate scientific and local knowledge systems. By fusing academic research, policy engagement, and community experience, the University hopes to spur a shift from sporadic experiments to systematic, sustainable solutions.

Need for united action

India's rivers and lakes are too precious to be stifled by neglect – or by a single invasive plant. The water hyacinth menace calls for urgency, accountability and united action. Let every community, government department, entrepreneur and citizen recognise that this is not just an ecological problem but a crucible for rural livelihoods, food security, climate resilience and a green economy.

Let us, together, drain the swamp – not just of water hyacinth, but of the inertia that allows such a menace to flourish. The time for action is now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reflections on August 15

On Independence Day, I wonder whether we are truly free. We broke the chains of colonialism, yet we forged new ones: corruption that has seeped into the system making it rotten; injustice that spares the powerful; the divisions of caste and religion, and the silent suffering of the poor. Women still fight for safety and millions still sleep hungry.

Our freedom fighters dreamed of dignity, equality and unity but speeches and parades cannot hide how far we are from that dream. True independence will come to us only when justice is swift, opportunities are equal, and no Indian lives in fear. Until then, August 15 is not just a celebration. It is a reminder that the fight for real freedom is not over.

Hemashree,
Bengaluru

Lessons from the West

The Data Point, "Before tackling stray dogs issue, India must count them properly" (Opinion page, August 13), has pertinent data. Last year when I was travelling in western Europe, I did not spot a single stray dog on any street.

In Switzerland, most people have pet dogs and great care is taken to ensure that no one is disturbed when the pet travels with the owner on public transportation systems such as trams, trains and buses. We have much to learn from the West.

Vijaya Segara Ramsait,
Courtallam, Tamil Nadu

Workers' strike

It is most unfortunate that the Tamil Nadu government has not been able to solve the problems of the conservancy workers, despite days of protest, and has resorted to forcibly vacating and detaining the protesting workers. It is ironic that the demand of the conservancy workers for permanency has not been considered by the ruling DMK government despite this being a part of its election promise.

The authorities cannot ask the workers, who have been directly engaged by the Corporation, to go and work under contractors. The Supreme Court, as early as 1985, in the Food Corporation case, made it clear that the march of law is from contract labour to direct labour and not the other way. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970 was meant for regulating and ultimately abolishing contract labour.

Courts and politicians keep saying that the Constitution is a living instrument meant for emancipating the weaker sections. But not only are promises not kept, they are being forgotten.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should HIV/AIDS testing be made mandatory before marriage?

PARLEY

N. Kumarasamy

Chief and Director of Infectious Diseases Medical Centre, Voluntary Health Services, Chennai

Jahnabi Goswami

president of the Assam Network of Positive People

In July, Meghalaya Health and Family Welfare Minister Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh announced that the State may follow Goa in making HIV/AIDS test mandatory for all before marriage. The problem is multi-disciplinary; it is not merely a question of health, but also involves considerations of human rights, stigma, and free will. Should HIV/AIDS testing be made mandatory? N. Kumarasamy and Jahnabi Goswami discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Ramya Kannan**. Edited excerpts:

Is it possible to implement mandatory testing for HIV before marriage? What are the advantages of such a move?

N. Kumarasamy: Regarding HIV, making anything mandatory is not acceptable. The HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, clearly mandates counselling before testing, and testing only with the consent of a patient. As per the law of the land, once you do the testing, everything must be kept confidential. If they test positive, patients should be linked to the appropriate antiretroviral treatment centres. The next question will be whether they can get married – that has also been dealt with by the 2017 law.

Today, based on science, we know that if a HIV-positive person is put on antiretroviral treatment, the viral load goes to an undetectable level within 2-3 months. Studies have shown that a person who has an undetectable level of viral load will not transmit infections sexually to their partners. The person will also not develop any HIV-related complications such as opportunistic infections, tuberculosis (TB), and various other comorbid conditions, and maintain a normal immunity level. Mandatory HIV testing without the consent of such a person will be a human rights violation. And doing so will also increase stigma. For all these reasons, mandatory testing cannot take place.

HIV testing should be offered to as many people as possible – mainly to those who are at risk and also people who believe that they may be at risk. It should be offered. Consent is important. And testing, if done, should be done while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

Jahnabi Goswami: Yes, the viral load can be managed with drugs. But I still think HIV testing should be made mandatory before marriage. There are a number of cases we know where people who have been infected, but are not taking antiretrovirals regularly, get married because of family and societal pressure. The spouse finds out only later, or perhaps when she or he tests positive for HIV. The children are likely to be affected too. In India we believe in matching horoscopes before the wedding. Why not a HIV test, to see if the couple are compatible at all? Such a test will also ensure the health of the family.

A nurse carries out a test for HIV/AIDS in New Delhi. AFP

Will this move actually empower women?

JG: My agenda is not women or male empowerment per se. In the north-east, specifically, there have been a number of cases where the (HIV positive) status was concealed. Injecting drug use is responsible for nearly 64% of HIV infections in the north-east. Men (injecting drug users) clean up for three months, get married and don't inform their wives. A few months later, they bring their wives too to test. Even today, we had such a case. This happens regularly. In fact, I believe that to safeguard women and girls, it is essential to go in for mandatory testing, with counselling.

About confidentiality and consent, I want to point out that in practice, doctors are forcefully testing for HIV. Even if you go for a small dental procedure – sometimes they counsel, sometimes they don't, and force you to do HIV test. Sometimes it is good counselling and sometimes it is of bad quality.

Will the HIV test, if it comes negative, provide a false sense of security?

NK: While you are doing appropriate testing, you are also counselling a patient to find out the duration of exposure. That also helps you determine the window period when testing should be offered. That is the reason you counsel someone.

If you force someone to do a test, they may go to a lab and get it done. The test report can be negative but the person might really be positive (for HIV) leading to transmission of infection. If testing is done with appropriate consent, counselling, and confidentiality, I'm sure people are not going to refuse it.

> HIV testing should be offered to as many people as possible — mainly to those who are at risk and also to people who believe that they may be at risk. It should be offered. Consent is important. And testing, if done, should be done while maintaining appropriate confidentiality
>
> N. KUMARASAMY

Goa also proposed mandatory testing some years ago, but it is still not a reality...

NK: Yes, it is not implemented in Goa. But there is wide testing happening in the State. There is no mandatory testing before a wedding. The thing is they cannot implement this because this will cause human rights violations. The same thing is happening in Meghalaya. If you look at the reports on rising infections, perhaps the State is ranked 5th or 6th where a significant number of infections is through injecting drug use and also through sexual contact.

But I think it is possible to learn from other States, especially from southern India – Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh – as well as Maharashtra. The ideal way to contain this infection is to do appropriate HIV testing as much as possible in a variety of settings with proper consent and then link those tested people to the treatment. That will reduce infectiousness in the country and also lead to a reduction in new infections in Meghalaya.

JG: I think it will definitely happen because the situation is quite different in Meghalaya. To understand it, you should understand the circumstances and people of the State. In Meghalaya, certain groups in the Christian community still think it is taboo to use a condom even if it is recommended by law. (The HIV Act promotes safe sex practices.) In fact, implementing the HIV/AIDS Act in Meghalaya is really difficult.

Also, culturally and socially, they have provisions for extramarital affairs and living together. These are quite common among the youth. Simultaneously, HIV is a big reason for discrimination in Meghalaya. No one actually accepts HIV-positive men or women.

How do we address the stigma that is still associated with HIV?

NK: Stigma started in India because it (HIV) was first detected in a commercial sex worker, so it was attributed to multi-partner sex. But this is not true, as we have seen.

HIV is still an incurable disease. The way to address stigma today is to make sure that common people are aware that we now have treatment available. Even if it is not curable, it is permanently controllable. In our research studies in Chennai, we showed that treating one partner will prevent transmission if the viral load goes down. The message U=U (undetectable is untransmittable) does work. Such scientific messages can remove stigma from the community, so that as many people as possible will test and be linked to treatment. Someone who is already on treatment will do well, and not transmit infection to the others.

Addressing stigma is not an easy thing. Over 30 years of taking care of people with HIV and their families at our centre here, we realise that each one is different. Much is based on their education, how they were raised, and whether they live in the village or city. All this will have to be wrapped up in several rounds of counselling.

JG: As Dr. Kumarasamy has said, stigma is associated not with the disease, but with where the infection arises from. The impression is that people who are in sex work will get HIV; people who do drugs will get HIV. That is where the stigma comes from. We should constantly try to reduce stigma. The government, people who are infected, like me, and those working in the field should work hard to erode the stigma.

If someone has cancer, they say without any hesitation that their family members died of cancer. If they are diabetic, they say they don't use sugar. And if they have hypertension, they don't mind asking you not to put salt in their food. But people who have HIV or people who have TB do not talk openly about it because these are seen as behavioral issues. We must remove the stigma and make it comfortable for HIV-positive people to talk about their status.

I do believe we have to involve counsellors to tell people that they will not transmit because they are on treatment, that U=U; and involve more people with HIV as role models to reduce stigma and discrimination. The quality of counselling should be improved for sure.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Sources in journalism can be great teachers

How V. Vasanthidevi and others shaped a reporter's understanding of a beat

Meera Srinivasan

The first decade of this century was critical for school education in India. Notably, the Union government launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme, aimed at achieving universal elementary education, and Parliament enacted the Right to Education Act. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu was experimenting with new initiatives, including introducing Montessori-inspired learning methods for primary students in the State's public school system, and Samacheer Kalvi, an attempt to bring uniformity in standards of school education.

It was a great time to be on the education beat. Each of these initiatives, both at the national level as well as in the State, sparked debates on making education more accessible and better for all. They laid bare both the challenges within the public education system and the resistance from private schools to changes. They made clear the downside of hasty policy shifts without adequate groundwork, as well as the blatant class bias of private schools. There was a lot to learn every day, as we tried reporting on these crucial developments.

However, not all of us immediately grasped the full import of the policy changes. We regularly spoke to government officials, teachers, principals, students, and parents. Luckily, we were also exposed to several committed practitioners and activists, who were closely engaged in the unfolding shifts.

As a cub reporter covering school education, I was especially drawn to two of them: Professor V. Vasanthidevi, a former Vice-Chancellor and well-known activist, who passed away recently, and Dr. S.S. Rajagopalan, a retired headmaster who had decades of teaching and administrative experience. I would go to these senior activists and several others, including Aruna Rathnam, then an education specialist at UNICEF, and feminist scholar V. Geetha, for perspective.

Their positions stemmed from an unwavering commitment to social and economic justice. Their interventions sought to democratise education. They would painstakingly expose the inequalities and inequities within our education systems, offering grounded solutions to address those. Their views, along with generous pointers from colleagues who had been on the beat before me, shaped my political understanding of education. As senior activists with busy schedules, they were always willing to spare time and explain their ideas at length. I remember thinking "they must be great teachers."

I recall Prof. Vasanthidevi's involvement in an exercise on children's learning outcomes – found to be very low – and her comprehensive analysis of the problem as one of resources, pedagogy, and home environment, and not merely a student's "ability", as is often claimed. With her persuasive argument in simple language, which zoomed into class inequality, and disparities of caste, gender, and geographic location, she tore apart the "meritocracy" argument.

Over the years my beats and location changed, but I was in touch with Prof. Vasanthidevi and Dr. SSR, as he is known. They, too, would check in from time to time or share feedback on a story. I last met Prof. Vasanthidevi in 2016 at her apartment in Chennai. This was for an interview when the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi fielded her in Dr. Radhakrishnan Nagar (R.K. Nagar) in north Chennai, against Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa. Prof. Vasanthidevi seemed clear about her prospects in that election, but saw the campaign as an opportunity to interact with voters from the largely working-class locality, and highlight the neglect there. I asked about her own political beliefs and the factors that shaped them. She said, among other things, "Politicisation is such an important part of education."

In a lifetime of activism, Prof. Vasanthidevi worked on a range of issues, and invariably circled back to the role of education for critical thought and change.

meera.srinivasan@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Fields of plenty

Farmers tend to a shallot field at Narasipuram on the outskirts of Coimbatore. Though shallots were selling at ₹36-40 per kg in the Uzhavar Sandhais, a type of farmers' market in Tamil Nadu, on Thursday, farmers are apprehensive that the price of the commodity could drop as huge quantities are expected to arrive in the market during this harvest season. PERIASAMY M.

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1975

TV comes to Madras

The TV Centre, Madras, begins daily transmissions to-day from a temporary 35-metre-high mini-tower and a one kw transmitter. Reception will be possible up to a range of 10 kms from the tower. A 175-metre tower, under construction, will extend the reach of the TV Centre to about 90 kms. The tall tower is expected to be ready by the end of the year, and will be hooked to a 10 kw transmitter.

The Madras TV Centre will be on the air daily from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Two days a week, in the forenoon, there will be brief, special educational programmes for school children.

The national policy is to use television largely for educational and instructional purposes. In a country in which the percentage of illiteracy is high, social awareness can be kindled through audio-visual presentation.

On the whole, 60 per cent of the evening transmission time on Madras TV will be devoted to educational and informative programmes.

Full-length cinema films will be telecast every Saturday, extending the time limit beyond 9 p.m., if necessary. There will be Tamil films for three Saturdays. The fourth will be in another language.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1925

The Wimbledon tournaments

Criticism against the management

The Wimbledon meeting of 1925, which set a record in gate receipts, with enormous profits, probably approaching £40,000, has also excited much criticism against the management.

"Sporting Life" charges the committee directing the Wimbledon tournament with shortcomings which if not rectified will lead to a decline in overseas entries and have other serious consequences.

From Page One

‘Publish names of 65 lakh excluded voters’

The 65 lakh names, out of the 7.89 crore registered electors in Bihar, were dropped from the draft roll despite the fact that their names had featured in the voters’ list prepared after a summary revision, merely months ago, in January 2025.

The court ordered the EC to publish the information (voters left out and reasons) on the websites of the District Electoral Officers (DEOs) across Bihar. Physical lists have to be displayed on the notice boards of the block development/panchayat offices to facilitate manual access to the public.

The court asked the EC to provide the Bihar Chief Electoral Officer with soft copies of the list, which should to be displayed on his official website. The poll body has to arrange wide publicity by issuing a “layman-friendly” public notice in vernacular and English newspapers, on radio, TV and authorised social media accounts of the DEOs/Bihar Chief Electoral Officer about the publication of the list.

“For a migrant worker who has been deleted as dead, even if he is illiterate, his neighbours or friends would alert him... It is only fair to have a procedure that does not block a person from exercising his right to adult franchise. There are civil consequences involved here,” Justice Kant pointed out to the EC.

Proof of compliance

The EC would compile proof of compliance from booth-level officers (BLOs)/DEOs and place on record before the court a collated status report on August 22, the next date of hearing, at 2 p.m. The list and reasons should be searchable by typing in the EPIC number of the voter concerned, the court said. The interim order would play a pivotal role in future disputes regarding SIR exercises in other States.

The EC initially resisted the court’s decision in favour of transparency, saying it had BLOs and booth-level agents (BLAs) working on the ground to assist the left-out voters and usher them back on the electoral roll. But the court said the voters’ right to know about the deletion and their constitutional entitlement to be on the electoral roll cannot be dependent on agents of political parties and booth officers.

“The way you [EC] do your intensive revision has to be comfortable for the voters and not give them strain... For a migrant worker who has been deleted as dead, even if he is illiterate, his neighbours or friends would alert him,” Justice Bagchi observed.

Justice Kant said voters should not be dependent on the will and convenience of the BLOs to know why they have been deleted from the roll.

“If the names and reasons of deletion are displayed, it would minimise manual interventions. People should not be dependent on political workers [BLAs] who have their own political ideology. Voters must have an independent right to check their status without recourse to either BLOs or BLAs,” Justice Kant remarked.

J&K cloudburst kills 40, over 100 missing

“Rescue operations have started in the area,” Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, said. An official said more than 30 bodies were recovered and hospitals reported at least 40 dead. More than 120 people caught in the debris were rescued and shifted to hospitals.

Chositi falls on the route of Machail Yatra and is 8.5 km away from the shrine. Shops and a community kitchen of the devotees were also damaged. The yatra has been suspended until further notice.

Dozens of personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police, and the Army were joined by local volunteers to rescue trapped civilians in the hilly area. Additional personnel teams of the NDRF were dispatched to the area. The J&K government made choppers available to transport the injured to hospitals.

More rain likely

Officials said remote terrain and poor mobile connectivity affected rescue operations. With more rain forecast, the administration fears that access to the village and rescue efforts could get hit.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take stock of the situation.

“I spoke with the Union Home Minister and updated him on the evolving situation in Kishtwar. The reports are grim, and verified information from the affected area is coming in slowly. We are mobilising all possible resources from within and outside J&K to manage the rescue operations,” Mr. Abdullah said.

‘At Home’ cancelled

Mr. Abdullah announced cancellation of the ‘At Home’ event planned for Independence Day due to the loss of lives. The J&K government also decided not to hold cultural events that were part of the Independence Day celebrations in the morning.

“Formal events, such as speeches and march past, will continue as planned,” Mr. Abdullah said.

Mr. Sinha said he was “deeply saddened by the cloudburst”. “My condolences to the grieving families and prayers for the swift recovery of the injured. I have instructed civil, police, Army, NDRF, and SDRF officials to intensify rescue and relief efforts and ensure that all possible support is provided to those affected,” he said.

‘Operation Sindoor an example of humanity’s fight against terrorism’

On the eve of Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu lauds India’s unity after Pahalgam terror attack and says ‘world has taken note of our stance’; President pays rich tributes to India’s ancient democratic traditions in her speech

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Path to progress: President Droupadi Murmu addresses the nation on the eve of the 79th Independence Day on Thursday. PTI

Operation Sindoor “will go down in history” as an example of “humanity’s fight against terrorism”, and India responded to the cowardly and inhuman Pahalgam terror attack with a steely resolve, President Droupadi Murmu said in her address to the nation on the eve of the 79th Independence Day.

President Murmu lauded the country’s unity and said the military action on the terror hubs across the border was a test case for growing self-reliance in the defence sector.

“Operation Sindoor showed that our armed forces are prepared to meet any eventuality when it comes to guarding the nation. With strategic clarity and technical capability, they destroyed terrorist hubs across the border. I believe, Operation Sindoor will go down in history as an example in humanity’s fight against terrorism,” Ms. Murmu said.

“In our response, what was most noticeable was our unity, which is also the most befitting response to those who wanted to divide us,” she added.

Referring to the multi-party parliamentary delegations that reached out to various nations to explain India’s position on cross-border terrorism, she said, “The world has taken note of India’s stance, that we will not be the aggressor, but we will not hesitate to retaliate in defence of our citizens.”

The President paid rich tributes to India’s ancient democratic traditions, successful transition from colonialism to a modern democracy on the basis of universal adult suffrage and the Constitution for “providing the edifice of democracy”.

“We built democratic institutions that strengthened the practice of democracy. We prize our Constitution and our democracy above everything else,” she said.

‘Developed economy’

Talking about the economy, she asserted that India is well on the way to becoming a developed economy by 2047, moving ahead with great confidence to be a self-reliant nation. She noted that even amid a global stress, India is considered as one of the fastest growing major economies, with growing domestic demand, inflation under control and GDP growth of 6.5% last fiscal. “The all-round economic growth complemented by social sector initiatives has placed India well on the path of becoming a developed nation by 2047. With the nation marching ahead during the Amrit Kaal, I see all of us contributing to the best of our ability,” she said.

Invoking Mahatma Gandhi’s statement “corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy,” the President stressed on the importance of sustained good governance and a “zero tolerance for corruption”.

Highlighting the nation’s focus on technological innovation, specifically artificial intelligence (AI) and the India-AI mission launched by the government, she said, “As we aspire to become a global AI hub by 2047, our focus will remain on making the best use of the advances in technology for the common people, to improve their lives by improving governance”.

The President also emphasised that development is truly meaningful only when it benefits marginalised communities and creates new opportunities for them.

A balanced military response: Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday praised Operation Sindoor as a “precise and balanced” military response that highlighted India’s “new vision”.

“It was a clear message from India that... when it comes to the safety of our people and the dignity of our country, we unite and face challenges boldly. Operation Sindoor is a part of India’s new policy, a clear message that no matter how deep the roots of terrorism are, its complete destruction will be ensured. This operation will continue till complete destruction of terrorism is achieved,” he said.

Consider the realities: SC to petitioners on J&K Statehood

Krishnadas Rajagopal
Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked petitioners, seeking direction to the Centre to make good its promise to restore Jammu and Kashmir’s Statehood, to be aware of “ground realities” like the Pahalgam terror attack.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavi, the petitioners, represented by advocates Gopal Sankaranarayanan and Menaka Guruswamy, drew the attention of the court to the Centre’s assurance.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said it was questionable why the petitioners had come at “this stage” of events, and wondered whether their intent was to “muddy the waters” in that part of the country. The court sought a response from the Centre and posted the case for hearing after eight weeks.

The plea, filed by Zahoor Ahmed Bhat and activist Khurshid Ahmad Malik, had pointed out that the Supreme Court had, in its 2023 judgment, while upholding the abrogation, merely accepted the assurance of the Union government to restore Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir “at the earliest”.

16 BSF soldiers get gallantry awards for valour during Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Saluting a hero: Sergeant Surendra Kumar, killed in the line of duty during Operation Sindoor, was awarded the Vayu Sena medal. PTI

The Union government on Thursday announced gallantry awards for personnel of the armed forces, including those who played key roles in the success of Operation Sindoor.

According to the Defence Ministry, President Droupadi Murmu has approved 127 gallantry awards and 40 distinguished service awards to the armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day on Thursday.

These included four Kirti Chakras, 15 Vir Chakras, 16 Shaurya Chakras, two Bar to Sena medals (gallantry), 58 Sena medals (gallantry), six Nao Sena medals (gallantry), 26 Vayu Sena medals (gallantry), seven Sarvottam Yudh Seva medals (SYSM), nine Uttam Yudh Seva medals and 24 Yudh Seva medals.

The President also approved Tatrakshak medals to five Indian Coast Guard personnel.

Sixteen Border Security Force (BSF) personnel have been awarded gallantry medals for displaying “conspicuous bravery” and “unmatched valour” during Operation Sindoor against Pakistan.

BSF sub-inspector Mohd Imteyaj and constable Deepak Chingakham were posthumously awarded the Vir Chakra.

“This Independence Day, 16 Brave Seema Praharis [border guards] are being awarded Gallantry Medals for their conspicuous bravery and unmatched valour, for being resolute and steadfast during the Ops Sindoor. The medals are a testament to the Nation’s faith & trust reposed in India’s First Line of Defence: The Border Security Force,” the BSF said in a social media post.

The Sarvottam Yudh Seva medals for Operation Sindoor has been awarded to Lt. Gen Pratik Sharma, Lt. Gen Rajiv Ghai, Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh (retd.), Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari, Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, Air Marshal Jeetandra Mishra, and Air Marshal A.K. Bharti. The President has also approved 290 Mention-in-Despatches – 115 personnel of the Army, five of the Navy, 167 of the Air Force and three of the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB).

As many as 21 officers of the CBI were awarded with medals for distinguished and meritorious service.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in a statement, said that 233 personnel have been awarded the Medal for Gallantry, 99 personnel have been awarded the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service, and 758 personnel have been decorated with the Medal for Meritorious Service.

India slams Pakistan for warmongering, hateful comments

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Randhir Jaiswal

India on Thursday hit out at the Pakistani leadership for “reckless warmongering and hateful comments” as well as the Hague-based Court of Arbitration (CoA) for questioning India’s decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) after the Pahalgam attack.

Responding to questions at the weekly briefing of the External Affairs Ministry, its spokesperson said that Pakistan would face “painful consequences”, referring to Operation Sindoor, if it attempts any “misadventures”.

In two orders on June 27 and August 8, the CoA, which India has refused to recognise and boycotted hearings of, held the treaty can only be terminated with the “mutual consent of India and Pakistan”.

The orders were touted by Pakistan as a victory. Amid a number of calls to demand that India restore the treaty, signed in 1960, Pakistan’s Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir had threatened to “blow up dams”, and “take down half the world”, a statement seen as a nuclear threat.

Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Opposition leader Bilawal Bhutto too had issued statements warning of reprisals if India held back the Indus waters.

“Pakistan would be well-advised to temper its rhetoric as any misadventure will have painful consequences as was demonstrated recently,” Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during the briefing, calling the comments an attempt to “whip up anti-India rhetoric time and again to hide their own failures”.

The government reiterated its stand against the CoA, set up by the World Bank in 2016 on Pakistan’s request to discuss its objections to two hydropower projects, and was followed by the appointment of a neutral expert, as India requested.

Both processes were paused for about six years, but as both countries failed to resolve issues bilaterally, those were put into motion in 2022. “India has never accepted the legality, legitimacy, or competence of the Court of Arbitration. Its pronouncements are therefore without jurisdiction, devoid of legal standing, and have no bearing on India’s rights of utilisation of waters,” Mr. Jaiswal said.

Chirag defends remarks on Bihar law and order, says he is not rebelling against NDA

Nistula Hebbar
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Chirag Paswan

Defending his recent remarks criticising the law and order situation in Bihar, Union Minister and Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan said that he was not “rebelling” against the JD (U)-led State government or the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), but was only airing his concerns, since his party was only supporting the government from the outside and was not part of it.

“It was my concern and a genuine concern for my State Bihar and Biharis,” he told *The Hindu* in an interview. In the wake of the gang-rape of a Bihar Military Police aspirant in Bodh Gaya on July 24 and the recent spate of crimes in Bihar ahead of the forthcoming Assembly election, he said on July 26 that he regretted supporting the government in Bihar.

“I am not being rebellious... I am only raising questions. I want accountability. It is the government’s responsibility to hold someone accountable..,” he added. He explained why he felt the need to go to the public by saying that unlike in the Centre, where he is part of the Union Cabinet, his party is not part of the Bihar government.

He conceded that remarks such as the ones he made, makes the Opposition “happy” and helps them set the narrative given his history with the JD (U). Mr. Paswan, while being in the NDA, had fought 2020 Assembly polls against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the JD(U). “I have nothing against the government. And I believe in our Chief Minister,” he said. “He [Nitish Kumar] is called the Sushasan Babu, because he dealt with the ‘jungle raj’ and brought it under control. I believe that he will be able to set it right again.”

He also rejected all speculation of him repeating his 2020 gambit of contesting the Assembly polls outside of the alliance. Claiming the NDA is a “solid” coalition and will have historic win, Mr. Paswan said, “I don’t see any reason for me to contest outside the alliance. Until and unless like in 2020 I am not pushed to a corner, which I don’t see happening because all my concerns are getting addressed.”

APPEAL

Master Bilal Alkaseri, UMR No. UMR250008739, 5 Years and 7 Months Son of Mr. Sarhan Alkaseri admitted Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children is Diagnosed with MHC Class II deficiency, Stem Cell transplant is only curative option for the child and the child has a fully matched related Donor. The Total Cost for the Transplant is Rs.18,00,000/-

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Bilal Alkaseri, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. 044-42044165 & 044-35691848, Mobile: 9884607377, Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com.

Opposition to take a call on protests over Bihar SIR on Aug. 18

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

M.A. Baby

The Opposition parties on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court's directions to the Election Commission (EC) to take steps to make the special intensive revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls more transparent, but said that the observations illustrate the shortcomings in the process that require a debate in Parliament.

A call on continuing the protests against the SIR in the last week of Parliament's Monsoon Session, which ends on August 21, will be taken at the floor leaders' meeting on Monday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, who is also a petitioner in the case, said that the Opposition's campaign will end when all the issues concerning the SIR are settled. "We will decide our parliamentary strategy on the issue on Monday morning when floor leaders of Opposition parties meet," he said.

Onus on deleted voters

CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said the issue of legality of SIR is yet to be determined by the Supreme Court. The interim order, he said, addresses some of the basic objections, but for the 3.5 million migrant workers whose names have been struck off, the onus remains on them to raise objections.

"The scale of exclusion is huge, time is short and most of the electors have been wrongfully penalised for no fault of their own. The onus of correction should also be put on the perpetrators of the error," he said.

Lauding the Supreme Court's directions, DMK's Rajya Sabha floor leader Tiruchi Siva said the judiciary has done its bit and now it is for the legislature to play its role. "Judiciary has come to the rescue of democracy, it is now for the legislature to safeguard it," he said.

'Systemic sabotage'

CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby, in a post on X, said the debate over SIR extends beyond mere revision, raising concerns about "systemic sabotage" in the voters' list that could undermine democracy. The party's Rajya Sabha floor leader, John Brittas, said the Opposition's protests had started against the SIR in Bihar, but since then more evidence has emerged on adulteration of voter lists that must be addressed.

"We need to deliberate upon the electoral process and how to ensure its sanctity. We will take a considered call on Monday on how to proceed further," he said.

Trinamool Congress's Rajya Sabha member Saket Gokhale said the Supreme Court's directions partially prove the Opposition's allegations and the issue must be discussed in Parliament.

"Even before the Supreme Court has settled the issue, the EC has announced its intentions to carry out such an exercise in West Bengal and Assam. This shows its sinister agenda to tamper with the elections. Why is it in such a hurry," he asked.

SC order on SIR a 'victory for democracy': Congress

Court's directions to EC to make available machine-readable rolls and allow Aadhaar as proof of identity in line with Rahul's demands; he will lead a 'Vote Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar from August 17

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> It is a long struggle to rescue our Republic from the machinations of the PM and his drumbeaters. But today's verdict of the Supreme Court on the Bihar SIR issue is a beacon of hope. It is a gigantic first step
>
> —JAIRAM RAMESH
> Congress general secretary (communications)

Welcoming the Supreme Court's direction to the Election Commission (EC), allowing the use of Aadhaar for any "non-included" voter in Bihar to challenge their omission from the electoral rolls under the special intensive revision (SIR), the Congress on Thursday called the order a "beacon of hope".

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the top court's ruling was a "massive victory for democracy, and a huge message for the vote *chors* (thieves) who tried to use the SIR to distort the electoral process in Bihar".

"As one of the petitioners in this case, it is heartening that in unequivocal terms, the Court has ordered that machine-readable electoral rolls be made available – in line with one of the central demand of Rahul *ji*'s press conference," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

The court's rejection of the EC's petition against the use of Aadhaar is a major boost as the document is the most widely held by the poor people in Bihar, he said.

'Gigantic first step'

In a separate X post, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said the top court had just upheld the Constitution in a "categorical, convincing, and courageous manner".

"It is a long struggle to rescue our Republic from the machinations of the PM and his drumbeaters. But today's verdict of the Supreme Court on the Bihar SIR issue is a beacon of hope. It is a gigantic first step," Mr. Ramesh added.

Continuing his fight for "one man, one vote", Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi gave a call to the youth of Bihar to join his "Vote Adhikar Yatra" that will cover 1,300 km over 16 days.

'From the soil of Bihar'

"From August 17, with #VoterAdhikarYatra, we are launching a direct fight against vote theft from the soil of Bihar. This is not just an election issue - it is a decisive battle to protect democracy, the Constitution, and the principle of 'one man, one vote'. We will ensure a clean voter list across the entire country," Mr. Gandhi said in a post on X.

"Youth, workers, farmers - every citizen, rise and join this people's movement. This time, the defeat of vote thieves - the victory of the people, the victory of the Constitution."

'Directive on Bihar SIR only a procedural clarification'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday said the Supreme Court's order on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar was a "procedural clarification" and not a victory for the Congress as claimed by that party. In a post on X, BJP president and Union Minister J.P. Nadda said the Congress was "clutching at non-issues and parading them as moral victories".

"Congress tried every trick and deceit to stop SIR but they had to face disappointment in the Supreme Court today... The fact remains that all their canards are being rejected, exposed, and defeated one by one," Mr. Nadda said.

BJP's national secretary Amit Malviya too took a similar line, terming the top court's order as a "set of procedural guidelines".

INBRIEF

EC notice to MP, husband for possessing two voter ID cards

The Election Commission on Thursday issued notice to Veena Devi, LJP(RV) MP from Vaishali, and her husband Dinesh Prasad Singh, who is a JD(U) MLC, and sought their reply in the dual EPIC numbers episode by August 16. The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of Muzaffarpur Assembly constituency in Bihar issued the notice to them following the claim made by Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav that both leaders had two EPIC numbers. He alleged that this was an attempt by the poll body to ensure victory of the NDA in the upcoming State Assembly election.

Congress asks EC to nullify 2024 Lok Sabha election

Mounting a fresh offensive against the Election Commission, the Congress on Thursday said the 2024 Lok Sabha election should be nullified as the BJP's Anurag Thakur had also claimed there was fraudulent voting in six constituencies. Mr. Thakur had on Wednesday listed constituencies, including Rae Bareli, Kannauj, Wayanad, and Diamond Harbour, where fake voters were allegedly present in large numbers. Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera claimed Mr. Thakur's press conference "validated, with evidence, what Rahul Gandhi had said a week ago". "Shouldn't that [2024] election be cancelled?" asked Mr. Khera.

Got 'caught up' in 'sharp contests' among parties, EC tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

EC's counsel Rakesh Dwivedi points to claims raised about EVMs and the SIR exercise in Bihar

The Election Commission (EC) told the Supreme Court on Thursday that it got "caught up" in the "sharp contests" among political parties.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, pointed to the allegations raised against it about electronic voting machines (EVMs), and now the portrayal of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in Bihar as "citizenship screening".

"Today is a time of sharp political contest. The EC is caught up in this sharp contest between political parties," Mr. Dwivedi submitted.

Justice Kant referred to the situation as "political hostility".

Mr. Dwivedi opened his counter-submissions to the SIR challenge by reminiscing how India had lived in a "euphoric state" after Independence.

During the time of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress had held "complete sway". From the late 1960s, Mr. Dwivedi said, the political struggles and break-ups had emerged.

"The Congress split up, the Emergency, these were times when political contest came out sharply in the open," he submitted.

He then referred to the era of Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan. "He did many good things, but overstepped too," Mr. Dwivedi said. He crossed over to the coalition governments and concluded with the EC bearing the brunt of the current political contest among parties.

"Political parties have the necessity to project certain things as realities in the public domain. We understand. We restrain ourselves," Mr. Dwivedi said.

He referred to how petitioners in the Bihar SIR case depict Bihar as "living in a dark age". "It is a land of enlightenment," Mr. Dwivedi remarked. However, Justice Kant intervened to note that there were "populations in Bihar living in poverty too".

Rationalisation of polling stations, change in BLOs spark confusion on ground

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

More booths: The number of polling stations in Bihar has now gone up from 77,895 to 90,712. PTI

Amid the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar, the Election Commission (EC) has carried out rationalisation and reorganisation of polling stations in the entire State, a move which political parties claim has added to the confusion on the ground.

The number of polling stations in the State has now gone up from 77,895 to 90,712. This has been done to adhere to the SIR order of June 24, which had directed that the number of voters in each polling station be limited to 1,200 from the earlier ceiling of 1,500.

The EC has said that Bihar is the first State to implement this new ceiling of voters for each polling station.

However, the EC, instead of numbering the new booths separately, has given fresh numbers to all the booths. In addition, the booth-level officers (BLOs) in charge of each polling station have been reassigned, according to the new numbering. This, coupled with the fact that the rationalisation process was implemented on July 26, after the first phase of the SIR exercise was over, has meant that the BLOs who collected the enumerations forms in the first phase would not be ones handling the claims and objections from voters.

Political workers as well as voters on the ground said that many a time, the BLO who had collected the form was not available to answer their concerns regarding deletion of names, or documents that must be submitted in case a voter's booth had been changed.

In a letter to the District Election Officer, Begusarai, Congress district president Abhay Kumar Singh Sarjan, said: "BLOs of newly created parts/booths have complained that much confusion has been created by this modification of existing booths during the SIR process, because they have to procure the enumeration forms and documents collected by the BLOs of older parts/booths. Such confusion [among] the BLOs has made the process of verification of deleted electors even more difficult." Congress district president, Anil Singh, who heads the Chapra unit, told *The Hindu*: "Some of the BLOs who have moved to new booths are not even answering calls of voters from whom they had collected their forms." Similar concerns have been raised by the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist).

However, sources in the Bihar State Election Office said that polling station rationalisation was carried out in a transparent and organised manner and all political parties were informed through distribution of the new list. Public meetings were also organised, they said. The sources said that in cases where one polling station was divided into two, there was seamless data transfer between the two BLOs and since the officials are local residents, contacting them was not difficult for voters.

At heart of SIR dispute is principle of hearing a person before causing harm

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Paper trail: A booth-level officer checks documents at Kamalpur village in Purnia district of Bihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

At the heart of the legal dispute over the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Bihar is a basic principle of natural justice – hear out a person before deciding to cause harm.

Here, the 'person' concerned are the 65 lakh voters "deleted" from the draft electoral roll published by the Election Commission (EC) on August 1. The "interest", or more aptly put, the Constitutional right involved is the entitlement to remain on the constituency's electoral roll.

The Supreme Court Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi has repeatedly asked in the ongoing hearing whether the challenge to the SIR is about the legality of its procedure or the very power of the EC to conduct the exercise.

Hearing in the SC

Petitioners have responded that the "illegality" of the procedure – to "presumptively exclude" existing electors until they bring proof of their citizenship; the *en bloc* deletion of lakhs of voters without holding a prior enquiry by the Election Registration Officer (ERO); the absence of a reasonable opportunity to hear electors after providing them with reasons for suspecting they were not Indian citizens – amounted to a "casual" exercise of the EC's considerable power to control the electoral roll under Article 324 of the Constitution.

There are stringent standards and procedures set out by statutory laws to guide the EC on the registration of names on the electoral rolls. These laws balance out the EC's power of superintendence over elections under Article 324 with the ordinary citizens' or the "little man's" right to vote enshrined in Article 326 of the Constitution and Section 62 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act.

Section 16 of the RP Act prescribes three reasons for disqualifying a person for registration in an electoral roll. They are non-citizenship, unsound mind, and corruption/offences related to elections. Section 22 empowers an ERO to delete an elector from the rolls after holding an enquiry. The elector in question "must" be given an opportunity to be heard, except in the case of death.

Similarly, Rule 21A of the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960 also empowers the EC to delete existing names from the electoral roll. Again, the procedure for removal must conform to principles of natural justice.

The Supreme Court, in *Lal Babu Hussein versus ERO*, a 1995 case law which is the focus of the current hearing, had divided electors into two categories – first-time electors and existing electors. That is, those whose names are to be entered on the rolls for the first time and those who have their names already in the voters' list of a constituency.

The Supreme Court held the EC is not wrong to demand evidence of Indian citizenship from first-time electors. However, in the case of existing electors, the court observed that "it must be presumed that before entering his name the officer concerned must have gone through the procedural requirements under the statute".

The Bihar draft roll has deleted voters who had participated in multiple elections over the past 22 years.

In some cases, petitioners claimed electors were deleted from the rolls on the mere ground that local booth-level officers did not recommend their names to continue. Now, the burden is squarely on them to prove their citizenship to the EC with just two months left for the Assembly election.

In *Lal Babu Hussein*, the court said the "opportunity" given to an existing voter to be heard before deletion of his or her name must be a "meaningful and purposive one".

"It goes without saying that the person concerned whose name is borne on the roll and is intended to be removed must be informed why a suspicion has arisen in regard to his status as a citizen of India so that he may be able to show that the basis for the suspicion is ill founded. Unless the basis for the doubt is disclosed, it would not be possible for the person to remove the doubt and explain any circumstance or circumstances responsible for the doubt," the court held.

Modi, Shah pay tribute to victims of Partition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday marked the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, stating that it was a day to honour the "grit and ability to face unimaginable loss" of the victims and survivors of the violence that followed the Partition of India. The Partition Horrors Remembrance Day was first marked in 2021.

"India observes Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, remembering the upheaval and pain endured by countless people during that tragic chapter of our history. It is also a day to honour their grit...their ability to face unimaginable loss and still find the strength to start afresh," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

"Many of those affected went on to rebuild their lives and achieve remarkable milestones. This day is also a reminder of our enduring responsibility to strengthen the bonds of harmony that hold our country together," he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a post on X, said, "Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is a day to express condolences by remembering the pain of those who suffered due to the partition of the country and its tragedy."

INBRIEF

Three-year moratorium imposed on new law colleges

In a regulatory move to curb the proliferation of sub-standard law colleges across India, the Bar Council of India (BCI) on Wednesday announced a three-year moratorium on the establishment of new ones. During this period, no new centre will be established or granted approval anywhere in India, the BCI said. It took this step "to arrest the decline in quality across segments of legal education, evidenced by the unchecked mushrooming of sub-standard institutions, routine issuance of no objection certificates by State governments and affiliations by universities without proper inspection".

India, U.S. to hold military exercise in Alaska this month

Amid trade uncertainties, India and United States will hold a joint military exercise in Alaska this month. According to the External Affairs Ministry, the India-U.S. defence partnership, underpinned by foundational defence agreements, is an important pillar of the bilateral ties. The cooperation has strengthened across all domains. "We are expecting a U.S. Defence Policy Team to be in Delhi in mid-August. The 21st edition of the joint military exercise *Yudh Abhyas* is expected to take place this month. Both sides remain engaged to convene the 2+2 intersessional meeting at the working-level towards the end of the month," the Ministry said.

Duration of the civil service exam cannot be curtailed, says the UPSC

A panel had recommended a comprehensive reassessment of the civil services recruitment framework; various checks and balances have been integrated in the system to eliminate the risk to confidentiality and integrity, the UPSC responds

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has informed a parliamentary panel that the duration of the one-year Civil Services Examination (CSE) cannot be curtailed.

The time cycle for the CSE has been optimised to the extent possible, despite an increase in the number of candidates, centres, and venues over the years, following a detailed analysis of the time taken in the pre-examination and post-examination activities, the commission said.

"One of the most vital factors that go into the determination of the time schedule of an examination is the need to maintain the utmost confidentiality and integrity of the examination process. Various checks and balances have been integrated in the examination system which have been gained through years of experience to eliminate the risk to confidentiality and integrity," the UPSC said in its reply to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice. The reply is mentioned in the 154th Report on Action Taken on the 131st Report on "Review of functioning of recruitment organisations of Government of India" pertaining to the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, tabled in the Rajya Sabha on August 8.

Question hour: Candidates writing the UPSC preliminary examination at a centre in Madurai. G. MOORTHY

The CSE is conducted in three stages – the preliminary (objective type) and mains (descriptive type) examination, and a personality test/interview. The exams are held to recruit officers for 19 civil services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Police Service (IPS), and the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

In accordance with the current trend, the number of applications for the preliminary examination is over one million every year, the UPSC said. The 2023 examination was held at 79 centres across the country, with 2,538 venues to accommodate 10.27 lakh candidates.

The gap between the three phases of the exam had been within a range of around two-and-a-half to three months, the UPSC said, adding that there was hardly any scope to further compress the time between the date of advertisement or notification of the CSE, and the date of holding it.

Evaluation of nine descriptive-type answer scripts took more time, that is, over two months, as nearly 1.2 lakh answer sheets in different subjects were evaluated by different teams of experts, the UPSC said.

The parliamentary panel had recommended a comprehensive re-examination of the civil services recruitment framework.

The panel had asked the Department of Personnel and Training to establish a clear timeline for the implementation of the Baswan Committee's reforms. In 2015, an expert panel, chaired by B.S. Baswan, former Secretary, Ministry of Education, was constituted to examine the various issues regarding the CSE, including a high rate of absenteeism among the applicants to the exam.

The panel said the UPSC should explore the feasibility of declaring the answer key to the preliminary exam after the exam was over, instead of publishing it after the declaration of the final results.

"Candidates should be allowed to raise objections at this stage only, and on that basis, any discrepancies related to the answer key of the preliminary examination should be resolved. This should be taken into account before publishing the results of candidates qualifying for the next stage, i.e., the Civil Services Mains examination," the panel said.

The UPSC said it had a Question Paper Representation Portal (QPRep) on its website, where candidates could submit their views on any aspect of a question.

The Commission released the answer key after the completion of the entire process, a policy it followed in all examinations, which had been working smoothly.

"As the above system of disclosing keys after the final result of the examination is working fine since inception and serving the larger public interest very well, no requirement is felt to change the same," the UPSC said.

The matter is *sub judice* in the Supreme Court, the UPSC told the parliamentary panel.

India backs Trump-Putin summit in Alaska

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry on Thursday "endorsed" the summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska, which could also decide the course of tariffs the U.S. has imposed on India.

Randhir Jaiswal, official spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, said India stood ready to support peace efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine.

India-U.S. ties

He said India-U.S. relations would move ahead based on "mutual respect and shared interests".

"We issued a statement welcoming the understanding between the United States and the Russian Federation for a meeting in Alaska on August 15. This meeting holds the promise of bringing to an end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and opening up the prospects of peace, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said on several occasions that 'it is not an era of war'. India therefore endorses the upcoming summit and stands ready to support these efforts," Mr. Jaiswal said.

The Hindu STEP unveils AI-powered speech coach

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu STEP has introduced a new artificial intelligence powered speaking coach, ProSpeak, that is designed to combine AI technology and the newspaper's language expertise to provide a round-the-clock personalised speaking programme.

ProSpeak – having the capacity to listen, and assess – will provide instant feedback, giving learners the opportunity to practise regularly. It understands both Tamil and English, making it easier to move from thinking to speaking. A version, including Hindi and other regional languages, is planned in coming months. ProSpeak will be offered to higher education institutions looking to strengthen their students' communication skills.

SC reserves order on plea against removal of stray dogs from streets of Delhi-NCR

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on an interim petition seeking a stay on its August 11 *suo motu* directive ordering the removal of stray dogs from the streets of Delhi-NCR and their confinement in shelters within six to eight weeks.

"Local authorities are not doing what they should be doing. They should be here taking responsibility," said a Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath and including Justices Sandeep Mehta and N.V. Anjaria. The court declined to grant a stay on the directions issued to civic bodies by a Division Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said most fatalities from dog bites and rabies involved children, and called for an urgent resolution to the escalating public health risk posed by stray dogs. "We have seen videos of people eating meat and then projecting themselves as animal lovers. Children are dying because of dog bites," he said.

Support for canines: People hold placards during a protest in Delhi on Wednesday against the order to relocate stray dogs. PTI

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for an NGO which looks after dogs, said the situation was "very serious" and the matter needed to be argued in depth.

He pressed for a stay on some of the directives in the August 11 order, contending that they contravened the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, which prohibit relocation of strays from their original place of habitation.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for one of the petitioners, argued that the August 11 order "puts the horse before the cart", as there were no adequate shelters to accommodate the strays. He said the directive contravened earlier Supreme Court rulings mandating strict adherence to the ABC Rules, 2023, in rehabilitating stray dogs.

Public interest

The *suo motu* case, initially heard by a Bench led by Justice J.B. Pardiwala, was later reassigned by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai to a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath. On August 13, a lawyer apprised the Chief Justice of a May 9, 2024 order to treat stray canines with compassion. The CJI had agreed to list the case after this oral mentioning.

Taking cognisance of increasing instances of stray dog attacks on children, including infants, Justice Pardiwala had said authorities should "at the earliest start picking up stray dogs from all localities, more particularly the vulnerable localities of the city as well as areas on the outskirts".

The Bench highlighted that Delhi recorded 25,201 dog-bite cases in 2024, and said that its directions were being issued in the larger public interest.

However, the directives sparked widespread outrage among animal rights activists, public figures, and welfare organisations, who argued that the region lacked sufficient facilities to accommodate an estimated eight lakh stray dogs. They cautioned that the large-scale capture of so many animals could result in logistical chaos and lead to acts of cruelty.

BJP is stealing rights of tribals by 'erasing papers', says Rahul

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, on Thursday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party had made "erase the papers, steal the rights" its new "weapon to oppress Bahujans" in India. He was reacting to a report in *The Hindu* on Thursday that several thousands of forest rights titles across three districts had seemingly disappeared from the Chhattisgarh government's records over 17 months.

The report looked at State government records for the implementation of the Forest Rights Act of 2006, which showed that in Bastar, Rajnandgaon, and Bijapur districts, several thousand individual forest rights (IFR) titles and two dozen community forest resource rights (CFRR) titles that had already been distributed as of January 2024, were no longer showing up in records of May 2025, though the FRA law does not provide for cancelling or withdrawing titles already distributed.

State government officials have said that the increased numbers were a result of "reporting error and miscommunication" and so the latest figures had been "corrected" accordingly.

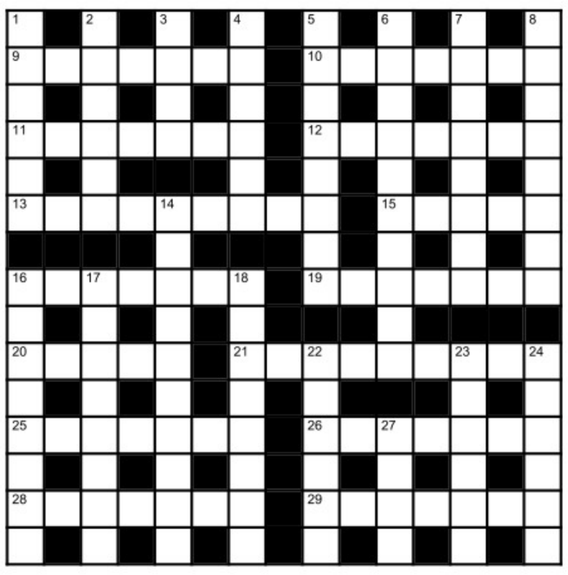
Mr. Gandhi posted an image of the report on social media, saying in an accompanying post, "Somewhere they remove the names of Dalits and Backward Classes from the voter list, and somewhere they make the forest rights titles of tribals 'disappear'." He added, "We will not let this happen", promising to protect the rights of tribals.

TH CROSSWORD + 14564

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Flying feat of king exceptional (7)
10 Arrogant petty officers escort member to America (7)
11 Nobleman accepts charged particle from inventor (7)
12 Princess's argument leads to conflict (7)
13 Calm cats? Yell primarily, running around. Disaster (9)
15 Arab found in a line reportedly gathering mustard seeds in Delhi (5)
16 Discarded cats (4-3)
19 Neighbour's nieces running across hotel (7)
20 Bordered fabric almost destroyed at the corner (5)
21 Different groups bat for a bar serving food (9)
25 Seize criminal at Quebec holding rand (7)
26 Aggressive lion and zebra's tails cut off by composer (7)
28 An issue following trouble returns in communication (7)
29 Plant is liable in a commotion to store oxygen (7)

Down

1 Right away, apricot should be thrown as it is related to hereditary hypersensitivity (6)
2 Travelling to UK, outskirts of Eastbourne with husband (3,3)
3 Practice to fish with guest essentially (4)
4 Brawl with a female following Ray (6)
5 Say, Covid was same, long all over (8)
6 Bird flies, bird's wings are clipped and cooked with a food additive (10)
7 Co-tenant's capacity to copulate (8)
8 At tea, saint is in confusion (8)
14 But old curs can get hurt in sudden rainstorm (10)
16 Uninformed visit of first calling aged cousin primarily with everyone (4,4)
17 Relative has lion with swan! Crazy (3-2-3)
18 Statuette damaged in gunfire (not nuclear) (8)
22 Implied to butlers to arrange right away (6)
23 Travel across border properly (6)
24 Market faces blockade around American zone/area (6)
27 Group often found near stone (4)

SUDOKU

	7						4	
				2	9	8		1
	1		8		4			
	4	8	2					
	5			3			6	
					6	9	1	
			4		7		2	
1		2	9	6				
	3						8	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS6612 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

		D	S	L	A	C		
	T	H	E	R	E	S	A	
G	R	O	O	M		R	P	A
A	L	A		M	I	S	S	I
O	N	A	R	Y		D	R	E
	T			T	S	E	N	T
E	N	C	E		T	A	N	N
I	N		M			T	E	I
A		T	R	U	E		E	T
H	E	R		G	E	N	E	
A		N		N	O		H	
S	T	I	T	C	H		S	H
O	O	T	I	N	G		I	
	A			U	S	O		C
O	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N
H	O	M	E		N		A	C
	A		N	C		A	A	
S	P	I	N	E		F	I	E
L	D	E	D		N	D		O
S	E							

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	4	8	7	1	3	9	6
3	6	7	9	2	4	1	8	5
8	1	9	3	6	5	4	7	2
9	3	5	6	1	7	8	2	4
1	8	2	4	5	9	6	3	7
4	7	6	2	3	8	9	5	1
7	9	3	1	4	2	5	6	8
6	5	1	7	8	3	2	4	9
2	4	8	5	9	6	7	1	3

FAITH

Krishna's kindness

Unable to bear the atrocities of Kamsa, everyone, from ordinary people to devas, aligned with the goddess of earth, Bhooma Devi, and decided to petition Maha Vishnu in person. At that moment, Vishnu Himself declared through an oracle that He would manifest on earth as Krishna and end Kamsa's cruelty, said Damal Perundevi.

Having already chosen His earth parents Devaki and Vasudeva and the foster parents Nandagopa and Yasoda, Vishnu asked Adisesha to precede Him as Balaram, conceived by Devaki, but delivered by Vasudeva's other wife through fetal transfer, while He Himself would arrive as the younger brother. Kamsa, Devaki's brother, celebrated her marriage to Vasudeva in a grand manner, when an oracle declared that the newly-wed's eighth child would kill Kamsa. An angry Kamsa was about to kill Devaki, when Vasudeva promised to deliver the new borns to him. Kamsa then lodged the couple in a jail.

Vasudeva did as promised. When Krishna's time to emerge came about, at midnight in the Tamil month of Avani, on Ashtami, under the Rohini star, Krishna decided to be born with His full regalia. His trademark weapons took on miniature form, the tiny crown glistened on His forehead, replete with peacock feather, and He sported a piece of yellow silk cloth around His waist, while the ankles jangled to the tinkle of bells from the anklet. Why did Krishna bedeck Himself so? It is because He was aware that Devaki would get but a fleeting glance at Him before He was given up. As a mother, the agony of such a parting is immeasurable and out of kindness, He decided that Devaki should get a good look at him, in full splendour.

END OF AN ERA

'A great advocate of inculcating sporting culture in the country'

FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

It is a sad day for us in Hockey India. The passing of Dr. (Vece) Paes draws curtains on a great era of hockey. The Olympic medal in Munich is a testament to their grit and determination. He was a great advocate of inculcating sporting culture in the country — Dilip Tirkey, Hockey India president and former India captain

HUGE LOSS

'Uncle Vece will be sorely missed by the entire sporting fraternity'

FILE PHOTO

Vece Paes was the India team doctor at the 2002 Busan Asian Games and worked regularly with the national squads at major events. Having been a world-class hockey player himself, he understood the psyche of a professional athlete. Uncle Vece will be sorely missed by the entire sporting fraternity — Sania Mirza

GUIDING LIGHT

'Dr. Paes was dedicated to sports medicine after hockey career'

GETTY IMAGES

Dr. Vece Paes was so dedicated to sports medicine that he fully concentrated on it after his hockey career. He had helped a number of Indian athletes in his sports medicine career. We both played as centre-half in the 1972 Olympics team and he was terrific. I was younger to him and he used to guide me — Ajitpal Singh

UNIQUE PERSONALITY

'An amazing sports physician and an incredible human being'

THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Dr. Vece Paes was a midfielder with the hockey team that won the bronze medal at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. An amazing sports physician, he was the team doctor when I played at the Athens 2004 Olympics. He was an incredible human being. Thank you for everything" — Viren Rasquinha, former India captain

Dr. Vece Paes, Olympic hockey medallist, passes away

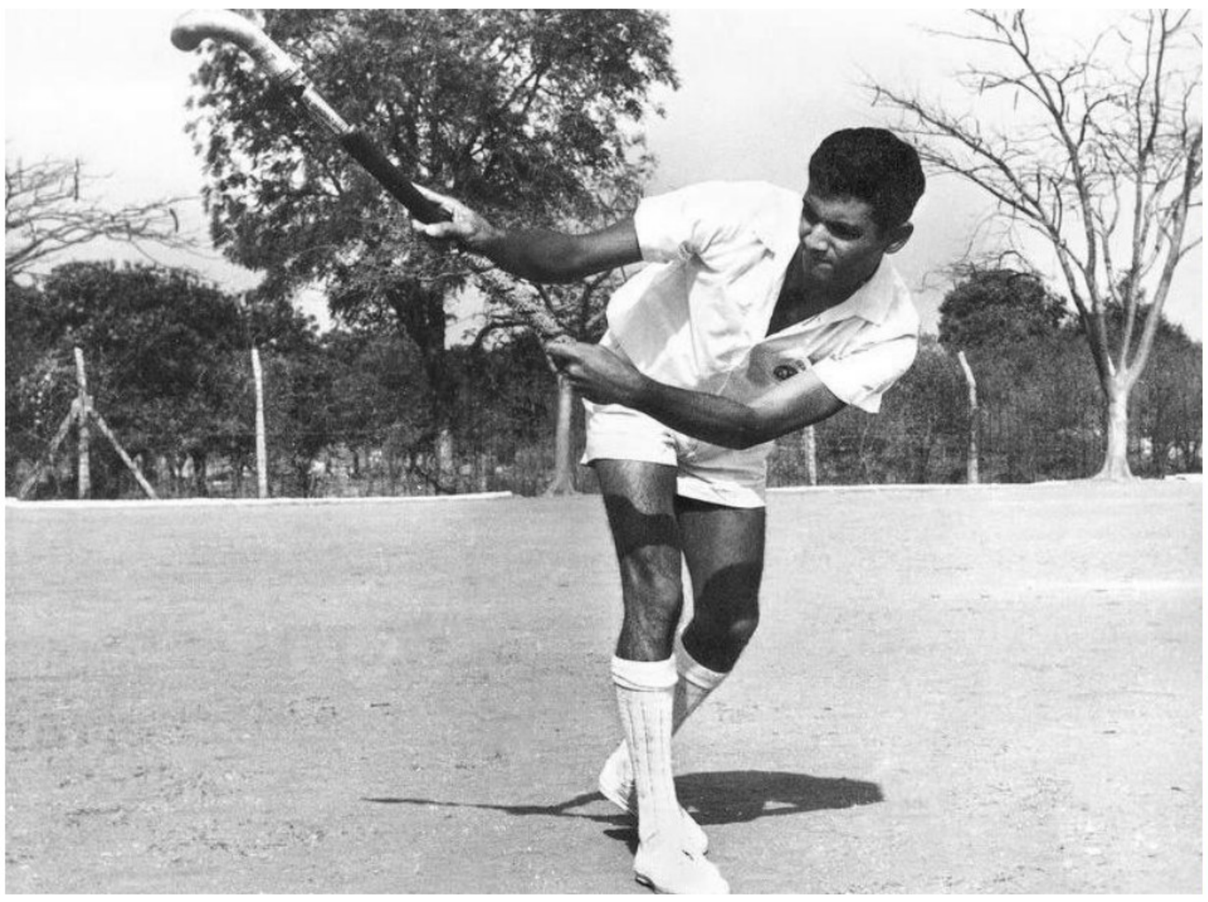
The octogenarian worked as a sports science expert providing assistance to prominent athletes from tennis, football and cricket; he was also associated with the BCCI and the Indian Davis Cup team

TRIBUTE

Y. B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Dr. Vece Paes, a 1972 Munich Olympics bronze medallist hockey player and the father of 1996 Olympics bronze medal-winning Indian tennis great Leander Paes, passed away following a prolonged illness at a hospital here early on Thursday. He was 80 and is survived by wife, son and daughter.

A medical practitioner, who excelled in hockey at the highest level, Dr. Paes, born in Goa in 1945, presented a rare combination of two professions.



Legacy lives on: Vece Paes and his son Leander have won an Olympic medal each. The former was part of the bronze-winning team at the Munich Games in 1972 while the latter emulated the feat at Atlanta '96. THE HINDU ARCHIVES & R. RAGU

International debut

Dr. Paes, an energetic centre-half whose career coincided with that of 1975 World Cup-winning captain Ajitpal Singh, was a medical student when he was selected for the Indian team. He made his international debut at the Hamburg International Cup in 1966. He also played for prominent clubs, including Mohun Bagan and East Bengal.

"Vece made his debut when I was the captain. He was a great team man and played different sports, including cricket, football and rugby. We played together for Mohun Bagan for 13 years and won nine Beighton Cup and nine Calcutta League titles. He was well-built and used to go up and down the field. It was unfair that he was not selected for the 1968 Olympics, but he got his chances in the 1971 World Cup (where India bagged a bronze) and 1972 Olympics," said 1964 Olympics gold medallist Gurbux Singh, a long-time friend.

> Saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Vece Paes, an Olympian, a healer, and a true gentleman. His contributions to Indian sport and the inspiration he provided to so many will be remembered
>
> ABHINAV BINDRA

"Vece was soft-spoken and a fine gentleman. As a doctor, if he gave medicine to someone, he would wait to see how the medicine worked."

Dr. Paes worked as a sports science expert providing assistance to prominent athletes from tennis, football and cricket. He worked with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Indian Davis Cup team.

His work, managing anti-doping education programmes, at the BCCI and Asian Cricket Council was highly appreciated.

He once famously said, "Talent is an overrated thing... if you do your 10,000 hours from the age of 12, you will hit your peak in your 20s."

Dr. Paes was a regular at hockey events, including the Beighton Cup, until he fell ill.

Knowledge quest: Vece Paes was keen on watching matches and learning from the best, like the legendary fast bowler Dennis Lillee for instance. FILE PHOTO & THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Keymer seals title with a miraculous draw

CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Vincent Keymer didn't appear to be at his serene best. His eighth-round game against Dutchman Jorden van Foreest was heading for an exciting finish and the German was close to suffering his first defeat in the Masters section of the Quantbox Chennai Grandmasters chess tournament.

As the match veered to a tense climax, the 20-year-old was one wrong move away from surrendering to his opponent. Keymer's face turned red and he didn't look very comfortable in his seat.

However, he found that match-saving move on the 44th turn to script a great escape and seal the title with a round to spare.

The draw on Thursday meant that Keymer's tally went up to six and the unbeaten player couldn't be overtaken in the standings as his nearest rival Arjun Erigaisi, who was on four points before the eighth round began, settled for a quick draw with Vidit Gujrathi.

Great escape: Keymer shared the point with van Foreest to emerge the king. R. RAGU

"It's just that I missed the Bishop d1 idea, which is really something you shouldn't miss. I had many ways to force a draw. I opted exactly for this way, which is a miracle.

"I'm glad I managed to focus myself back onto the game and find the only way to a draw. Just missing this Bishop d1 idea, it's crazy, especially in such a moment," said a relieved Keymer after the game.

Meanwhile, the Arjun-Vidit encounter lasted more than two hours.

All the games in the Masters event ended in stalemates. Karthikeyan Murali, who could have kept the title race alive if he had beaten Nihal Sarin, couldn't get past his opponent.

In the Challengers section, M. Pranesh heads into the final day as the sole leader, with 6.5 points, after he beat D. Harika. Abhimanyu Puranik and Leon Luke Mendonca are in hot pursuit, with six points each.

The results:

Eighth round: Masters: Karthikeyan Murali (4.5) drew with Nihal Sarin (3.5), V. Pranav (3) drew with Ray Robson (USA, 3), Vincent Keymer (Ger, 6) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 4), Anish Giri (Ned, 4) drew with Awonder Liang (USA, 4), Vidit Gujrathi (3.5) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (4.5).

Challengers: G.B. Harshavardhan (3) lost to B. Adhiban (5), Leon Mendonca (6) drew with Pa. Iniyan (4.5), Abhimanyu Puranik (6) bt Diptayan Ghosh (3.5), R. Vaishali (1) lost to Aryan Chopra (3), D. Harika (1.5) lost to M. Pranesh (6.5).

Ninth round pairings:

Masters: Arjun vs. Karthikeyan, Liang vs. Vidit, van Foreest vs. Giri, Robson vs. Keymer, Nihal vs. Pranav.

Challengers: Pranesh vs. Harshavardhan, Aryan vs. Harika, Diptayan vs. Vaishali, Iniyan vs. Abhimanyu, Adhiban vs Mendonca.

'The strongest classical tournament I have won'

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Vincent Keymer was a wunderkind in German chess and was one destined for greatness and the 20-year-old showed why he is rated so highly with a flawless performance in the Quantbox Chennai Grandmasters tournament here.

Keymer drew a topsy-turvy eighth-round match against Dutchman Jorden van Foreest on Thursday to claim the title with a game to spare. The icing on the cake was that he broke into the top 10 of the FIDE live ratings for the first time after his seventh-round win over Awonder Liang.

Keymer took up chess at the age of five and was taught the rules by his parents. At 11, he was winning tournaments and was called exceptional by the legendary Garry Kasparov in 2016 and the following year he became a Grandmaster. Keymer hasn't looked back since.

Keymer R. RAGU

Keymer provided a glimpse of his capabilities when he won the Weissenhaus Freestyle Chess Grand Slam against a world-class field on home turf early in the year. He scored wins over Alireza Firouzja, Magnus Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana in the final three knockout games to achieve a memorable triumph.

Asked where he rated the victory in Chennai, a delighted Keymer said: "It means a lot. Yeah, it's very important, I think it's the strongest classical tournament I have ever won, and also winning it with one round to go and quite some distance is really, really nice."

Yet, he isn't celebrating already. "I'm just gonna try to not ruin my performance tomorrow, and then I can really call it a very nice tournament, and yeah, that will really leave a good feeling for the upcoming events," he added.

The encounter against van Foreest was probably his sternest test in the tournament here and he managed to come through unscathed and is happy about it. Having broken into the top 10, Keymer wants to stay put.

INBRIEF

Gukesh in fourth spot; Caruana leads with 14 points

D. Gukesh overcame a loss against Leinier Dominguez Perez (USA) to beat the American duo of Wesley So and Fabiano Caruana to stand at fourth spot at the end of the rapid section of the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz chess tournament, a part of the Grand Chess Tour. Caruana emerged on top in the rapid round with 14 points despite his loss against Gukesh.

'It is unbelievable how Gill lead the team in England'

Yuvraj Singh feels Shubman Gill's performance in the England tour was nothing short of unbelievable. "Gill became the captain and scored four Test hundreds. It's just unbelievable when you're given responsibility, how you take it. So, very proud of them (Indian team). I certainly feel it's a win for us," Yuvraj told ICC Digital on the sidelines of the '50 Days To Go' Women's Cricket World Cup event.

Kohli in his pomp was unbelievable, says Shastri

Former head coach Ravi Shastri has named Virat Kohli as the best player he coached for Team India. "I would say Kohli, the batsman in his pomp, was unbelievable. Because in those five years when India was No. 1 in the red-ball format, some of the innings he played in Australia, South Africa, England, across formats was unreal," said Shastri.

People want to hype up a big series: Root on Warner's jibe

Joe Root has brushed aside David Warner's jibe that he will need to "take the surfboard off his front leg" if England is to triumph in Australia in the upcoming Ashes series. "Nothing new, is it? You know there are going to be storylines and people wanting to hype up a big series. Doesn't really change anything," said Root.

Parmar finishes fifth overall, runner-up in 38-46 age-group

Varoon Parmar finished fifth overall and runner-up in the 38-46 age-group in the Asia-Pacific mid-amateur golf championship at the Gading Raya Golf Club at Baanten in Indonesia on Thursday. The 43-year-old Parmar led after a four-under 68 in the second round, but finished at par 216 over three rounds. Arjun Singh was placed third in the 38-46 age-group with a two-over 218 in three rounds. Ranjit Singh was tied ninth with four-over 220, while Simarjeet Singh was joint 21st with 14-over 230. Ashish Kapoor, competing as a private entry, was tied second in the over-47 age group.

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis: Cincinnati Open, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 10.30 p.m.

Paris Saint-Germain breaks Tottenham's heart with comeback win via penalties

Spurs blows away a two-goal lead; PSG substitutes Lee and Ramos draw things level before goalkeeper Chevalier shines in the shootout

On top: PSG players celebrate the start to the new season with the Super Cup win over Tottenham. REUTERS

SUPER CUP

Agence France-Presse
UDINE (ITALY)

European champion Paris Saint-Germain began the new season by lifting more silverware on Wednesday as it beat Tottenham Hotspur 4-3 on penalties in the UEFA Super Cup after producing a late comeback to draw the match 2-2.

Spurs looked set to get its hands on the trophy in its first competitive match under new coach Thomas Frank as it led 2-0 just after half-time at the Stadio Friuli.

Micky van de Ven gave last season's Europa League winner the lead on 39 minutes and Cristian Romero got the second goal three minutes into the second half.

However, PSG was rescued by two substitutes as Lee Kang-in pulled a goal back in the 85th minute and Goncalo Ramos headed in the equaliser four minutes into injury time.

Bad start

That meant a penalty shoot-out, but it started badly for PSG when Vitinha put its first kick wide.

However, new Paris goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier saved from Van de Ven and Mathys Tel missed the target, allowing Nuno Mendes to convert the winning penalty for PSG.

Dominic Solanke, Rodrigo Bentancur and Pedro Porro all scored from the spot for Spurs, in vain. Ramos, Ousmane Dembele and Lee converted for PSG before Mendes stepped up.

The result: PSG 2 (Lee 85, Ramos 90+4) drew with Tottenham Hotspur 2 (Van de Ven 39, Romero 48) (PSG won 4-3 on penalties).

Alonso's Real Madrid starts LaLiga with fresh energy

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Challenge: Alonso has a task at hand trying to get forwards Vinicius and Mbappe contributing defensively. AFP

Real Madrid, featuring several new signings, approaches the new season with fresh hope under recently-appointed coach Xabi Alonso, looking to turn the page on a disappointing end to the Carlo Ancelotti era with "ambitious" football.

Former Liverpool and Los Blancos midfielder Alonso saw at the Club World Cup in the United States this summer there is plenty of work to do, as Paris Saint-Germain thrashed Real 4-0 in the semifinal.

"Things are going to be different... we are starting from scratch," said Alonso, although some of his findings from the tournament will undoubtedly influence his approach.

Real fans also got their first glimpse of the Basque tactician's plans, and also of England defender Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Alonso showed tactical flexibility, utilising both a four-man and three-man defence, whereas his predecessor Ancelotti tended to stick with four at the back and was criticised for not being adaptive enough in games.

By contrast Alonso was keen to adjust things during matches if he could, including the positioning of his players, and keen to impress on his squad they must all help defensively and with pressing.

"We need and want everyone to defend – the 11 players on the pitch have to be involved defensively," said Alonso during the tournament, asked specifically about star forwards Vinicius Junior and Kylian Mbappe.

"They have to know how we want to press, and without that, things will be very complicated," continued Alonso.

"Vini, Jude (Bellingham), Fede (Valverde), Kylian, those up front, the defence has to push forward too."

Alonso is looking to obtain the balance that Ancelotti failed to achieve last season following Mbappe's arrival from PSG.

If Alonso can find the formula for Mbappe and Vinicius to work together without sacrificing too much out of possession remains to be seen, while winger Rodrygo Goes does not appear to be part of the coach's plans, playing a bit-part role in the States.

Real goes into the season without Luka Modric in the squad for the first time in over a decade, with the Croatian's experience and quality a big miss for a side lacking some guile in midfield.

Los Blancos' hope is for Turkish playmaker Arda Guler to be able to thrive there and become a player who can control the tempo of a game.

"The coach is trying to make us have more control of the game, and that's better for me," said Guler.

The 20-year-old should get plenty of chances to play at the start of the season with Jude Bellingham sidelined until around mid-October after shoulder surgery to solve a long-running issue.

By then new arrival and fellow England international Alexander-Arnold may have established himself in the side.

The full-back, who joined from Liverpool before the end of his contract so he could play at the Club World Cup, adds further attacking quality to a Real squad brimming with it.

Real hopes Dean Huijsen could help solve some issues at the back, while Alvaro Carreras and Franco Mastantuono also join, with Los Blancos spending over $200 million this summer.

Good news

Dani Carvajal's return from a long-term knee injury is another piece of good news for a Real side which needs it after its 2024-25 campaign was more noteworthy for the club's attacks on referees than for success on the field.

Alonso, who hopes to play an "ambitious" game with "emotion and energy", wants the world to be talking about Real Madrid's football once again.

Chethan's 75 helps Bengaluru Blasters beat Mystics

MAHARAJA TROPHY

C.K. Muralidharan
MYSURU

Last year's runner-up Bengaluru Blasters, aided by stroke-filled 75 n.o. (48b, 10x4, 3x6) from opener and local lad L.R. Chethan, recorded its first win in three games with a five-wicket win over Gulbarga Mystics in a low-scoring match of the Maharaja Trophy.

Earlier in the evening, the match between defending champion Mysore Warriors and Mangaluru Dragons was called off due to a wet outfield at the SDNR Wadiyar

Dragons won the toss and elected to field, but heavy downpour prevented any play.

After two ground inspections, the umpires decided to abandon the match at 6 p.m.

Both Warriors and Dragons shared a point each. Dragons top the table with five points from three games, while Warriors have three points from as many games.

Facile win

B.R. Sharath's breezy 70 (31b, 7x4, 5x6) and Kranthi Kumar's five for 37 enabled Dragons register a facile 29-run win over Shivamogga Lions on Wednesday night.

The scores: Gulbarga Mystics 112 in 20 overs (Lavish Kaushal 54 n.o., Mohsin Khan 2/18, Vidyadhar Patil 2/13, Shubhangi Hegde 2/10, Rohan Naveen 2/19) lost to Bengaluru Blasters 113/5 in 14.2 overs (L.R. Chethan 75 n.o., Vyshak Vijayakumar 3/19). **Toss:** Blasters; **PoM:** L.R. Chethan.

Mysore Warriors vs. Mangaluru Dragons no play possible due to rain.

On Wednesday: Dragons 179/8 in 20 overs (B.R. Sharath 70, K.V. Aneesh 33, V. Koushik 3/23, Hardik Raj 2/28) bt Shivamogga Lions 150/8 in 20 overs (K. Rohit 62, Kranthi Kumar 5/37, Santokh Singh 2/35). **Toss:** Shivamogga; **PoM:** Kranthi Kumar.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

On a high: The triumphant Vidyashilp Academy under-14 and under-17 teams celebrate. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shreyank stars for Shivamogga with double century

BENGALURU: Shreyank Sagar (201) starred for Shivamogga Zone against Tumkur Zone in the KSCA S.A. Srinivasan Memorial under-23 tournament.

The scores: Tumkur Zone 232 in 55.1 overs (N. Vibhushan 52, K. Ambresh 37, T. Chiranjeevi 46, Mithesh 3/50, S. Santhosh 3/56) and 205/3 in 27 overs (S. Toufeeq 100 n.o., N. Vibhushan 68) drew with Shivamogga Zone 316 in 82.2 overs (Mohan Partha 39, Shreyank Sagar 201, N.S. Manoj 3/55, N.T. Vinay 3/75).

Mysore Zone 352/9 in 73.1 overs (S.U. Karthik 163, Dhanush Gowda 46, S. Ishaan 64, R.J. Mankalesh 3/49) drew with Combined City XI 403/5 in 79.4 overs (B.N. Yashwant 194, Ashwin Santosh 57, U. Karan 50 n.o., Samit Dravid 74).

Mangalore Zone 275 in 74.5 overs (R.R. Rohan 67, Rushi Shetty 89, Rahul Bellad 3/64, N. Rohan 6/39) drew with Raichur Zone 331/9 in 85 overs (Thippa Reddy 101, Niranjan 113, Wardhan Khuba 50, Adithya Kotian 4/48).

Bangalore Zone 351 in 85 overs (S. Chaitanya 93, Vishal Onat 40, Krishiv Bajaj 55, Rajvir Wadhwa 73, M. Malatesh 36, Yash Raj Punja 4/64, Lokesh Ramu 5/67) and 67/3 in 16 overs (Aarush Mehrotra 32 n.o.) drew with Bangalore City XI 231 in 61.2 overs (S.H. Swaroop 144 n.o., Rajvir Wadhwa 3/40, Surya Bondu 3/41).

Vidyashilp Academy wins a double

Vidyashilp Academy claimed a double in the St. Joseph's BHS inter-school hockey tournament here.

The results: Final: Centenary Shield (under-17): Vidyashilp Academy 1 (Arrush Malik 11) bt St. Joseph's BHS 0.

Fr. Eric Vaz Memorial (under-14): Final: Vidyashilp Academy 3 (Pranith Gadia 28, Vignesh Ashoke 35, Sohan Kadli 40) bt Chinmaya Vidyalaya 2 (M.D. Ghouse 3, Hemanth 17).

Special prizes: Centenary Shield: Player of the Tournament: Manish (Frank Anthony PS), **Best forward:** Adrian Nitin Manuel (St. Joseph's Boys HS), **Best half:** K. Mohammed (Chinmaya Vidyalaya), **Best defender:** B.S. Siddarth (Vidyashilp Academy), **Best goalkeeper:** Khalifa Mohammed (Vidyashilp Academy).

Fr. Eric Vaz Memorial: Player of the tournament: Hemanth (Chinmaya Vidyalaya), **Best forward:** Joel Paul (St. Joseph's Boys HS), **Best half:** Adhavan (St. Joseph's Boys HS), **Best defender:** Pranith Gadia (Vidyashilp Academy), **Best goalkeeper:** R. Amogh (Chinmaya Vidyalaya).

At 45, Venus returns to the U.S. Open; a look at her career and comeback

She was away from the tour for 16 months before playing at the DC Open last month, winning a match each in both singles and doubles.

TENNIS

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Venus Williams, 45, is back on the professional tennis tour and will be returning to the U.S. Open next week for her first Grand Slam competition in two years.

A look at the career of Venus, who owns seven Grand Slam titles in singles, 14 in women's doubles with her sister, Serena, and two in mixed doubles, along with a record five Olympic tennis medals:

Venus, who was born in Lynwood, California, on June 17, 1980, played her first WTA tournament in Oakland in October 1994, at 14. In the first round, she beat Shaun Stafford in straight sets. However, in the next, she lost to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

The queen is back! Venus will be the second oldest to play in the U.S. Open after Renee Richards, who was 47 when she competed in the 1981 edition. GETTY IMAGES

Three years later in 1997, she made her Grand Slam debut at Roland-Garros, eliminating Naoko Sawamatsu in the first round and losing to Nathalie Tauziat in the second. Later that year, she also played in the U.S. Open for the first time and reached the final before losing to Martina Hingis.

The 1998 Australian Open featured the first Venus vs. Serena match-up where Venus beat Serena in the second round, the first of 31 meetings as pros. Serena went 19-12, 11-5 in Slam matches.

Venus' first Grand Slam singles trophy arrived at the All England Club in 2000 when she was just 20.

She finished the 2000 Sydney Olympics with gold medals from singles and doubles and then added golds in women's doubles in 2008 and 2012, plus a silver in mixed doubles (with Rajeev Ram) in 2016.

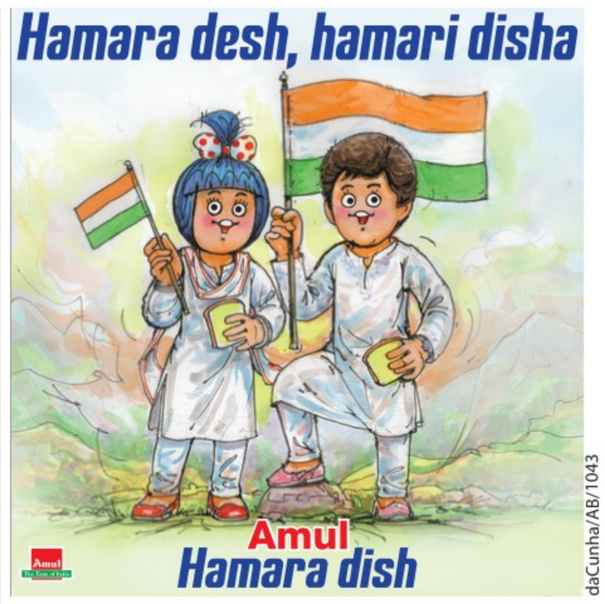
In February 2002, Venus was ranked No. 1 for the first time and retained that spot for 11 weeks.

During the 2011 U.S. Open, Venus withdrew before her second-round match and revealed she had been diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, an energy-sapping auto-immune disease.

The five-time Olympic medal winner had a career resurgence in 2016-17, making it to the finals at two major tournaments – Australian Open and Wimbledon – and the semifinals at Wimbledon and U.S. Open.

Venus had 10 consecutive Slam exits in the first or second round, including at the 2023 U.S. Open, her most recent major appearance.

She was away from the tour for 16 months until returning at the DC Open this July, winning once each in singles and doubles.



Sidharth and Mukund in Bali quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Sidharth Rawat beat Alexander Klintcharov of New Zealand 7-6(3), 6-2 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $30,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Bali on Thursday.

Sidharth was joined by S. Mukund in the quarterfinals, while Kabir Hans, Karan Singh and Ajay Malik bowed out in the second round.

Tanisha Kashyap fought her way past Maddalena Giordano of Italy 7-6(3), 7-6 (4) into the quarterfinals of the ITF women's event in Monastir, Tunisia.

The results: $30,000 ITF men, Bali: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Arthur Gea (Fra) bt Kabir Hans 6-2, 6-2; Yanki Erel (Tur) bt Karan Singh 7-6(4), 6-1; Sidharth Rawat bt Alexander Klintcharov (Nzl) 7-6(3), 6-2; Renta Tokuda (Jpn) bt Ajay Malik 6-0, 6-1; S. Mukund bt Shunsuke Nakagawa (Jpn) 6-2, 6-0. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Kaichi Uchida (Jpn) bt Shanker Heisnam & Ajay Malik 6-2, 6-1; Alexander Klintcharov & Ajeet Rai (Nzl) bt Kabir Hans & Kaan Kesharwani 7-5, 7-5; Alexander Chang (USA) & Anthony Susanto (Ina) bt Dharmil Shah & Yash Yadav 6-3, 6-2; Kokoro Isomura & Shunsuke Nakagawa (Jpn) bt Atharva Sharma & Caheer Warik 6-2, 6-1. **$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam & Manish Sureshkumar bt Kosuke Ogura & Keisuke Saitoh (Jpn) 6-3, 7-5. **$30,000 ITF women, Aldershot, Britain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Alicia Dudeney (GBr) & Ankita Raina bt Brooke Black & Ruby Cooling (GBr) 6-4, 6-1. **$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Tanisha Kashyap bt Maddalena Giordano (Ita) 7-6(3), 7-6(4). **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Aaddi Gupta & Anna Tabunshchyk (Can) bt Ines Delaloye (Sui) & Selya Rakki (Frra) 6-4, 7-5. **$15,000 ITF women, Singapore: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Haruna Arakawa (Jpn) bt Smriti Bhasin 6-2, 6-2.

Maxwell aims to fine-tune his skills as Australia looks to reclaim T20I WC

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
CAIRNS (AUSTRALIA)

With an eye on next year's T20 World Cup in the Indian sub-continent, Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell is sharpening his spin-bowling skills to become more potent in powerplay overs. Maxwell, if fully fit, is likely to be a part of the Australian side as it aims to reclaim the trophy it last won in 2021.

The all-rounder has been a regular in the Indian Premier League, donning several jerseys with his most successful stints coming for Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Punjab Kings, where he shone as a devastating batter with the ability to turn the game decisively with the ball as well. Despite his bowling prowess, Maxwell has bowled only five powerplay overs in total in the shortest format since the T20 World Cup in 2022.

But the 36-year-old feels he could come in handy during the 2026 T20 WC as the new ball grips the subcontinent's wickets better.

"I think in the subcontinent as a spinner you might be able to get a little bit more out of it (wicket) early on," Maxwell was quoted by cricket.com.au.

In the second T20I against South Africa in Darwin, he took two wickets including that of skipper Aiden Markram in the fifth powerplay over. Along with bowling, Maxwell has also been comfortable playing at any position depending on the requirement.

Prepping up: Maxwell feels he might be able to get more out of the wicket in the sub-continent during the 2026 T20 World Cup. AFP

Akanksha and Anahat reach the quarterfinals in contrasting style

The former keeps her nerve to get the better of Fadaely while the latter storms past Cardwell in just 18 minutes; Tanvi goes down guns blazing to second seed Hani in a thrilling contest

SQUASH

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Slugfest: Akanksha lost the second and third sets before taking the next two. FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Fifth seed Akanksha Salunkhe fought her way past Sophie Fadaely 11-8, 7-11, 10-12, 11-4, 13-11 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $27,500 NSW Bega Open PSA women's squash championship in Australia on Thursday.

Top seed Anahat Singh sailed into the quarterfinals in 18 minutes with an 11-3, 11-3, 11-4 victory over Sarah Cardwell of Australia.

In the quarterfinals, Anahat will play Hayley Ward of South Africa, while Akanksha will face fourth seed Alexandra Haydon of Australia.

Tanvi Khanna went down fighting 7-11 in the decisive fifth set to second seed Habiba Hani of Egypt in the pre-quarterfinals after having won a round earlier.

The seeded players had a bye in the first round.

The results (pre-quarters):
Anahat Singh bt Sarah Cardwell (Aus) 11-3, 11-3, 11-4.
Akanksha Salunkhe bt Sophie Fadaely (Aus) 11-8, 7-11, 10-12, 11-4, 13-11.
Habiba Hani (Egy) bt Tanvi Khanna 11-6, 2-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-7.
First round: Tanvi bt Breanne Flynn (Irl) 11-6, 11-9, 11-5.

AFI asks women athletes to undergo SRY test before World championships

Adille Sumariwalla.
FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Following the World Athletics rule for female athletes wishing to compete in world ranking events to undergo the SRY gene test, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has announced that the eligible athletes must go through the mandatory test prior to the World championships in Tokyo, Japan, next month.

"It is pertinent to mention that all female athletes who meet the qualification standards for the World Athletics Championships 2025 should undergo the SRY gene test in consultation with the AFI," said a circular from the federation.

"Those concerned are requested to ensure compliance with the above requirement at the earliest, failing which the concerned athlete(s) shall not be permitted to compete in the female category."

WA rule for all

AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla clarified that the WA rule "will be for all athletes representing the country in Tokyo."

Given this background, it will be interesting to see how many of the female athletes, who make the cut for the World championships, travel to Tokyo for the elite competition to be held from Sept. 13 to 21.

TOGETHER,
WE BUILD THE NATION
WE DREAM OF

Happy 79th Independence Day
August 15th, 2025

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
(A Government of India undertaking)
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी
Good people to grow with

IOB Savings Accounts | IOB Current Accounts | IOB 444 Days Deposit | IOB CD RERA Account | IOB CD Start up Account | IOB Home Loan | IOB Vehicle Loan | IOB Jewel Loan | IOB Mahila Shaksham Loan | IOB Mahila Samriddhi Loan | Gold Pevvered Card | IOB Surya & HL Surya Loan | IOB Krishi Vriddhi Loan | IOB e-GST | IOB Easy Plot | IOB Harit Kranti | IOB QR Sound Box | IOB UPI VYAPAR | Bhim IOB UPI | IOB WhatsApp Banking... And many more

IOB Good people to grow with

Scan QR Code to Visit Our Website | www.iob.in | Follow Us | Toll-free No. - 1800 425 4445 / 1800 890 4445

THE HINDU

A visual embodiment of a nation reborn, yours to keep!

Buy a beautifully framed reprint of The Hindu's iconic Independence Day special-edition cover from August 15, 1947.

Scan the code or visit https://newsth.live/15Aug to place your order today! Available for a limited time only.

THE HINDU GROUP

Our history, held high.

Happy Independence Day

Photos from The Hindu Archives.

INBRIEF

JSW Cement closes 5% lower after listing at a thin premium

JSW Cement Ltd. closed 5% lower than its opening price of ₹153 a dollar after opening at a premium on its first day of listing. The company, whose upper price band was fixed at ₹147, was listed at a premium of 4.4%. The stock opened at ₹153.5 apiece and reached an intra day high of ₹154.77. It touched an intra day low of ₹145.05, which was lower than the upper price band itself. The stock then touched the closing price of ₹146, a rupee lesser than the upper price band.

Cognizant to offer pay hike to 80% of its employees

Cognizant on Thursday said approximately 80% of its eligible employees would receive a salary hike, effective November 1. "This aligns with its announcement during the second quarter earnings that the company plans to award merit-based salary increases for the vast majority of employees during the second half of 2025," said a spokesperson at Cognizant. According to the company, these hikes will be delivered up to, and include the Senior Associate levels.

Mahindra unveils Batman Edition of BE 6 at ₹27.79 lakh

Mahindra, in collaboration with Warner Bros. Discovery Global Consumer Products, unveiled the BE 6 Batman Edition – a limited-run electric origin SUV priced at ₹27.79 lakh (ex-showroom). "The BE 6 Batman Edition belongs firmly in the second category. A production car that brings to life a rare fusion of cinematic heritage and modern luxury, inspired by Christopher Nolan's critically acclaimed The Dark Knight Trilogy from Warner Bros," the company said in a statement.

'India's trade deficit shrank in April-July'

Commerce Ministry data revealed faster growth in exports than in imports over this period; services continued to drive export growth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Substantial growth: Within the overall trade, India's merchandise exports grew 3.1% to $149.2 billion in April-July 2025. REUTERS

India's overall trade deficit in the current financial year 2025-26 as of July shrank 3.7% to $31.3 billion as compared with the same period in the previous year, official data showed. This was due to a faster growth in exports than in imports over this period.

Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that India's overall exports – including both merchandise and services – stood at $277.6 billion in the April-July 2025 period, up 5.2% as compared to the exports in April-July 2024.

Total imports grew a relatively slower 4.2% over this period to $308.9 billion.

"Despite an uncertain global policy environment, India's goods and services exports in July as well as in the April-July period have grown substantially and far faster than the global growth level," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said at a press briefing to release the data.

Within the overall trade, India's merchandise exports grew 3.1% to $149.2 billion in April-July 2025, while merchandise imports grew at a faster rate of 5.4% to $244 billion during this period. As a result, India's merchandise trade deficit widened to $94.8 billion in April-July 2025 from $86.8 billion in the same period of the previous year.

The Commerce Secretary, however, emphasised that India's seemingly-lacklustre merchandise export activity is clouded by the impact of falling oil and petroleum prices. The data shows that non-petroleum merchandise exports grew 7.7% to $127.5 billion in April-July 2025.

Services exports, on the other hand, witnessed the opposite trend as merchandise, with exports growing faster than imports. India's service exports grew 7.9% to $128.4 billion in the April-July 2025 period, while service imports remained virtually flat at $64.9 billion, 0.3% higher than in the same period as last year.

India 'fully engaged' with U.S. on trade deal, says Barthwal

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Sunil Barthwal

India continues to be "fully engaged" with the U.S. on a Bilateral Trade Agreement, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Thursday, however adding that the date for the next round of negotiations has not yet been decided.

He reiterated the deadline for the deal as fall 2025, or September-October 2025, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump.

Official sources have also confirmed that India was working with both the U.K. and the EU to fast-track the implementation of the respective trade deals India was concluding with them. "We are fully engaged with the U.S. on the trade negotiations," Mr. Barthwal said at a press briefing. "There was a joint statement that was given by the U.S. President and our Prime Minister where it was said India and the U.S. would engage in a bilateral trade agreement and simultaneously we would also aim to more than double our trade to $500 billion."

Mr. Barthwal added that the final date for the next round of negotiations would be decided closer to the last week of August.

According to official sources who declined to be named, the negotiations and engagement between India and the U.S. was taking place at different levels.

"One level is at the negotiating team's level, another one happens at the Ministers' level, the third happens at the diplomatic level, and we also engage the different industries of the U.S. to look into their issues," the official explained.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,597	0.07
US Dollar	87.59	-0.13
Gold	1,01,420	0.39
Brent oil	66.71	2.50

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2281.60	1.50
Adani Ports	1300.30	-19.30
Apollo Hosp	7821.50	13.00
Asian Paints	2528.70	28.50
Axis Bank	1068.20	2.20
Bajaj Auto	8213.50	-35.00
Bajaj Finserv	1925.10	10.70
Bajaj Finance	861.45	1.45
Bharat Elec	384.90	-3.95
Bharti Airtel	1873.80	6.40
Cipla	1564.00	3.00
Coal India	384.45	-1.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1260.40	7.00
Eicher Motors	5764.00	49.50
Eternal Ltd.	318.40	6.05
Grasim Ind	2764.90	19.00
HCL Tech	1489.80	-11.30
HDFC Bank	1991.10	10.80
HDFC Life	788.75	12.15
Hero MotoCorp	4708.10	-60.60
Hindalco	695.25	-5.25
Hind Unilever	2480.60	-14.50
ICICI Bank	1427.30	6.50
IndusInd Bank	769.75	-3.70
Infosys	1447.70	21.10
ITC	411.45	-2.65
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	327.40	-3.20
JSW Steel	1045.50	-8.20
Kotak Bank	1978.20	-9.50
L&T	3677.00	-16.70
M&M	3265.40	-16.80
Maruti Suzuki	12936.00	102.00
NestleIndia	1089.40	-7.50
NTPC	339.35	-0.60
ONGC	236.94	-1.73
PowerGrid Corp	288.70	0.50
Reliance Ind	1373.80	-8.80
SBI Life	1840.60	0.30
State Bank	826.55	4.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	616.45	-2.80
Sun Pharma	1641.40	1.60
TataConsumerProduct	1051.20	-4.90
Tata Motors	664.60	0.85
Tata Steel	155.30	-4.88
TCS	3022.30	-13.90
Tech Mahindra	1486.70	-19.60
Titan	3489.40	22.60
Trent Ltd.	5370.50	-28.00
UltraTech Cement	12317.00	-84.00
Wipro	246.81	5.16

S&P upgrades India rating after 18 years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ratings agency S&P Global has, after an 18-year gap, upgraded India's rating, to BBB from BBB-, citing the country's "economic resilience and fiscal consolidation". S&P Global also kept India's long-term outlook as 'stable'.

"The upgrade of India reflects its buoyant economic growth, against the backdrop of an enhanced monetary policy environment that anchors inflationary expectations," S&P Global said.

"The Government of India welcomes the decision by S&P Global Ratings to upgrade India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-' and its short-term rating to 'A-2' from 'A-3', with a Stable outlook," the Ministry of Finance said in its X post.

IOC Q1 net profit doubles on operational efficiency

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) on Thursday reported that its Q1 net profit more than doubled to ₹5,688.60 crore, driven by a surge in product margins and record operational performance. The company registered ₹2,643.18 crore earnings in the same period of last year.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.35	87.67
Euro	102.14	102.52
British Pound	118.63	119.07
Japanese Yen (100)	59.64	59.87
Chinese Yuan	12.18	12.23
Swiss Franc	108.44	108.84
Singapore Dollar	68.20	68.47
Canadian Dollar	63.40	63.63
Malaysian Ringitt	20.72	20.83
Australian Dollar	57.02	57.24

Source:Indian Bank

July local auto wholesales rose 7.8%, PVs a drag: SIAM

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Fingers crossed: The automobile industry is cautiously optimistic for the demand momentum to pick up, says Menon. AFP

Total domestic wholesales of passenger vehicles (PV), three-wheelers (3W), two-wheelers (2W) and quadricycles in July grew 7.8% year-on-year to 19,37,921 units, as per SIAM data.

PV was the only segment that reported a minor contraction, as per the data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Thursday

Exports rise

Exports during the month increased 30.5% to 5,41,282 units, according to SIAM data.

Total production during the month increased 10.7% to 26,98,519 units.

In the domestic market, PV sales slipped 0.2% to 3,40,772 units in July.

Three-wheeler sales climbed 17.5% to 69,403 units while two-wheeler offtake increased 8.71% to 15,67,267 units.

"All vehicle segments posted stable performance in July 2025, though overall sentiments in the passenger-vehicle segment has remained subdued so far," said Rajesh Menon, director general, SIAM.

"With the advent of the festive season beginning with Onam festivities in the latter part of August, the Indian auto industry remains cautiously optimistic for the demand momentum to pick up in the coming months," he said.

Ashok Leyland Q1 net rises 13% to ₹594 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. reported a 13% year-on-year growth in net profit to ₹594 crore for the first quarter ended June.

Revenue increased 1.5% to ₹8,724 crore. The firm reported it's highest-ever commercial vehicle volumes of 44,238 units in Q1.

Domestic medium and heavy commercial vehicle (MHCV) industry almost remained flat on a high base of Q1 last year. Ashok Leyland MHCV truck volumes (excluding defence) grew 2%, the firm added.

"we are redoubling our efforts in international markets and defence business," said Dheeraj Hinduja, chairman.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION File Roc.No.6/2832123/2025/Dt:12-08-2025
The **NOTIFICATION** Dt.01.06.2025 & **CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION** Dt. 20-06-2025 published in THE HINDU English & ABN ANDHRA JYOTHI Telugu daily newspapers for the post of **GENERAL MANAGER** [Information Technology] in Adv. No.81 & Adv. No.108 is hereby cancelled, on administrative reasons.
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.174) Date:14-08-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

भारत कोकिंग कोल लिमिटेड
(कोल इण्डिया लिमिटेड की एक अनुषंगी कंपनी)
Bharat Coking Coal Limited
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
(एक मिनीरत्न कंपनी / A Mini Ratna Company)
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Government of India Undertaking)
NOTICE
All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **BCCL www.bcclweb.in,** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https:// coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in.**
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE 15.08.2025
Online sealed item rate e-tenders are invited from reputed contractors for the work mentioned below at Cochin International Airport, Nedumbassery.

Name of Work	Estimated Amount (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Period of Contract
Civil works for the replacement of Instrument Landing System (ILS for Runway 27) and associated grading works at Runway strip	12.14 Crores	20,00,000/-	08 months

Interested agencies may register themselves on the online E-Tendering portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** and download the tender documents. For more details, visit our website: **www.cial.aero** Sd/- Managing Director

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
EOI No. 185/2025
Expression of Interest are invited for **"Selection of a Co-Developer to construct and operate an IT building under QUAD Project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) Campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala".**
The last date of submission of EOI is **18.09.2025**.
For further details, please visit **https://www.technopark.in/tenders**
Date: 11-08-2025 **Chief Executive Officer**
Trivandrum **Technopark**
D3/610/2025/I&PRD

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 11-08-2025 to 13-08-2025
Ground Water Department
Tender ID: 2025_GWD_784106_1 * Director, GWD * Supply of 5 Nos of dismantling type DTH Rigs * Closing Date: 08-Sep-2025 * PAC: Rs67500000
Stationery Department
Tender ID: 2025_STY_785976_1 * Stationery Controller * Supply of Maplitho Paper 70 gsm, 76 cm reel * Closing Date: 09-Sep-2025 * PAC: Rs11040000
Tender ID: 2025_STY_786122_1 * Stationery Controller * Supply of Maplitho Paper 75 gsm, 86 cm reel * Closing Date: 10-Sep-2025 * PAC: Rs15900000
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:11-13/Aug/2025/PRD/(N)10

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIDCO
West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Development of an International Information, Technology, Entertainment and Cultural Park including Concert Arena on Public Private Partnership Mode
Ref No: C- 241/HIDCO/ADMN-4345/2025 dated 13.08.2025
An Expression of Interest (EOI) is hereby invited from eligible Applicants for "Development of an International Information, Technology, Entertainment and Cultural Park including Concert Arena on Public Private Partnership Mode" at New Town, Kolkata. Interested Applicants may download the detailed invitation at www.wbhidcoltd.com. The due date for submission of EOI is 08.09.2025, 05:00 pm.
ICA- T17458(4)/2025 General Manager (Commercial)

श्री कर्ण नरेन्द्र कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, जोबनेर
SRI KARAN NARENDRA AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, JOBNER
जोबनेर, जयपुर 303329 (राज.) JOBNER, JAIPUR 303329 (Raj.)
Tel : 01425-254980 Web site: www.sknau.ac.in
F. No. 2 ( )/ SKNAU/ VCSearch/ 2025/73 Date : 14.08.2025
ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR, SRI KARAN NARENDRA AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, JOBNER
Applications in prescribed standard format are invited from the eligible candidates for the post of **Vice-Chancellor, Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner**, on behalf of the Search Committee. The applicants are advised to send their applications in the prescribed format by post as well as email (vcselectionsknaujobner2025@gmail.com) so as to reach the office of **the Chairman of the Search Committee i.e. Vice-Chancellor, University of Kota, M.B.S. Marg, Near Kabir Circle, Kota.** on or before **12 Sept., 2025 till 5.00 PM**. Detailed advertisement and standard format of application can be seen and downloaded from the University website www.sknau.ac.in or Raj Bhawan, Rajasthan website www.rajbhawan.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/25/8250 REGISTRAR

भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पुणे
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune
(An Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament)
Gat No 5 & 6, PO - Nanoli-Tarf Chakan, Tah - Maval, Dist - Pune, Maharashtra - 410507
संदर्भ संख्या.A-IIITP/AAP/12/01/2025 दिनांक/Dated:13-08-2025
रोजगार सूचना/EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Indian Institute of Information Technology, Pune (IIITP) is one of the 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology established under Public-Private Partnership Scheme by Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India. IIITP has been declared as an "Institution of National Importance" and at present the Institute is functioning under Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.
Applications are invited for the following positions on a contractual basis:
A. Teaching Positions (Through IIIT Pune – Contractual Basis)

Post	Department	Consolidated Remuneration (Per Month)	No. of Post(s)
Adjunct Assistant Professor	Computer Science & Engineering	Rs.70000/- (Ph.D Holder) Rs.60000/- (Non-Ph.D Holder)	03
Adjunct Assistant Professor	Electronics & Communication Engineering	Rs.70000/- (Ph.D Holder) Rs.60000/- (Non-Ph.D Holder)	02

B. Non-Teaching Positions* (Through Outsourced Agency)

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	Consolidated Remuneration (Per Month)	No. of Post(s)
1	Office Consultant	₹40,000/-	01
2	Training and Placement Officer (TPO)	₹90,000/- to ₹1,00,000/-	01
3	Lab Assistant (ECE)	₹30,000/-	01
4	Network Engineer	₹40,000/-	01

***The above positions will be filled through an outsourced agency.**
Note:
- The details advertisement has been uploaded on institute website (https://www.iiitp.ac.in/careers). Candidates are requested to go through it before applying.
- The Number of posts may vary as per Institutional requirement.
- The Candidate may visit Institute's website regularly for any updates & more details:

REGISTRAR

Infosys to buy AUD233.3 mn stake in Telstra unit Versent

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

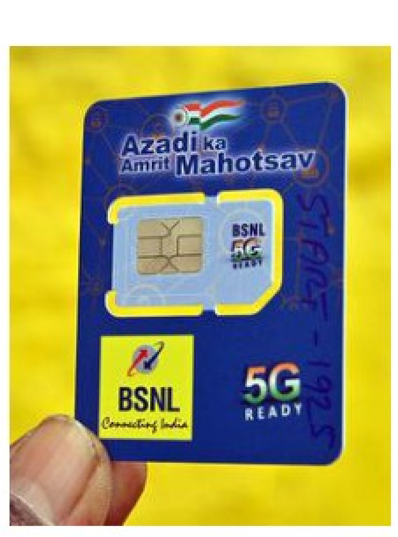
Infosys plans to buy 75% stake in Versent Group, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Australian telecom firm Telstra, for 233.25 million Australian dollars or about ₹1,336 crore, it said.

It is a collaboration between Infosys and Telstra to form a joint venture to provide AI-enabled cloud and digital solutions for Australian businesses.

Another report said the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore imposed a penalty of 97,035 Singapore dollars on Infosys.

'BSNL network to get ₹47,000-crore boost'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



BSNL had already incurred ₹25,000-crore capex.

The government is ready with another ₹47,000 crore capex plan to boost BSNL's network, the Department of Telecom posted on social media platform X on Thursday.

BSNL had spent ₹25,000 crore last year on installing one lakh towers for 4G mobile services.

"We have another close to ₹47,000 crore capex plan in place for BSNL. Meanwhile, BSNL has done its highest-ever capex of ₹25,000 crore during last year," the DoT said, quoting Union Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

TCS and C-DoT-led consortium bagged most of the ₹25,000-crore project for supply of telecom gear to BSNL. Mr. Scindia had asked BSNL to raise average revenue per user.

Indian state refiners eye Russian oil as discounts rise

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Indian state refiners have started making enquiries with trading firms about purchases of Russia's Urals crude oil as discounts widen, people with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday, ahead of a high-profile meeting of U.S. and Russian leaders on Friday.

State refiners – Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd. – paused Russian oil purchases last month as discounts narrowed.

Photo Imaging: Sebastian Francis

At the crossroads

The recent announcement of TCS that it would be releasing 2% of its global workforce has sent shockwaves across the 20 lakh IT/ITeS workforce in Karnataka. Many feel that what is happening at TCS is an indication of bigger disruptions to come. **Shilpa Elizabeth** looks at the challenges faced by the employees and the industry, which blames the advent of AI for the downtrend

Kavya (name changed), one month pregnant and mother to a five-year-old, unexpectedly found herself unemployed after an alleged instance of forced resignation by her former employer, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Presented with only two options – resignation or termination – after being called in for a discussion with the HR, she was compelled to choose resignation, completely against her will, she says.

Another former employee, who was undergoing training for a client's project, received communication that the project team had been asked to release him. Later, he was called in for a one-on-one discussion with the HR, who asked him to tender his resignation or face termination. Only recently married, the incident has put him under severe pressure.

Yet another allegation comes from a former employee who claims to have received zero support from his superiors despite providing documentation and hospitalisation records for his medical condition. According to him, he was forced to resign in the last week of July, and his last working day was declared as the same day, without any notice period or transition support.

Allegations of forced resignations against TCS, and the company's recent announcement that it would be releasing 2% of its global workforce, have sent shockwaves across the 20 lakh IT/ITeS workforce in Karnataka. Many feel that what is happening at the TCS, once known for its employee-friendly policies and stable jobs, is an indication of bigger disruptions to come. They fear that soon more companies will follow suit, leading to a churn within the $260 billion industry, whose wheels are turned by one of the largest labour forces in the country.

A paradigm shift

The Indian IT/ITeS worker is no stranger to layoffs and retrenchments. However, it rarely proved to be the end of careers for anyone. But what is happening now seems to be more structural than a temporary phenomenon, many feel.

"Earlier, layoffs used to happen because overall the markets were not doing well, or there was a dullness in the economic sector. But now the layoffs are happening because there's a paradigm shift in the IT industry itself," says Biswajeet Mahapatra of Forrester.

It was on July 27 that TCS issued an internal circular announcing its plans to release around 12,000 employees in its mid to senior levels. Two days later, on July 29, came a statement from the industry body NASSCOM, which observed that the tech industry is at an inflection point.

"Over the next several months, we anticipate some transitions as organisations pivot toward product-aligned delivery models, driven by rising client expectations around agility, innovation, and speed. This shift is likely to reshape traditional service delivery frameworks and, in the near term, may lead to some workforce rationalisation as traditional skillsets are re-evaluated," said the statement from the company which highlighted AI and automation as the reason.

However, AI is only part of the story, others say. Macro headwinds, such as wars and U.S. president Donald Trump's tariffs, have dampened the overall demand and reduced the discretionary spending of large enterprises across the globe, says Kamal Karanth, co-founder of Xpheno, a specialist staffing company.

> As per our understanding, AI in the Indian IT sector still hasn't reached a stage where it would result in the elimination of job roles.
>
> **SUHAS ADIGA**
> KITU general secretary

Added to this are the global layoffs by tech giants themselves.

"Large product companies like Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Meta and many others put together have also laid off about 1.2 lakh employees in the last two years. Indian IT Services companies have had a large exposure to these brands, which has also reduced their wallet share," Mr. Karanth notes.

According to him, the rise of freelancers or gig platforms, which now have reached a revenue of close to $7 billion and are growing at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 19% is eating away at the technology spend of American and European enterprises.

While the FAANG (Meta - formerly Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google) shed their weight in the U.S., in India they added the net staff at their Global Capability Centres in India. This meant that a lot of work which would have otherwise gone to the Indian companies now started flowing to the in-house GCCs. India hosts around 1,700 GCCs, with Bengaluru accounting for around 29% of them. This roughly translates to more than 450 GCCs that pose stiff competition to the services companies in Bengaluru.

The AI effect

Historically, most Indian IT and ITeS companies, such as Infosys, TCS, Wipro and others, followed a linear growth model where revenue growth was closely tied to headcount growth. Hiring more employees meant the ability to take up more projects and earn more revenue. The labour-intensive companies benefitted immensely from the cost arbitrage.

However, at a recent report launch by EY and NASSCOM, where representatives from companies such as Infosys participated, there seemed to be consensus that the industry is looking at a future where growth would be decoupled from headcount, thanks to AI and automation.

Global clients who expect cost efficiency and automation have been mounting pressure on the Indian services companies.

"The IT spending is not increasing because there's confusion in the international market due to external reasons. There is also the expectation of AI to do a lot of the jobs for which people were employed earlier. Many companies have almost removed the bench strength," notes Mr. Mahapatra.

Notably, TCS recently introduced a bench policy restricting the duration of hours on the bench for an employee to 35 days annually. There have been allegations that the forced resignations are mostly targeted at employees on the bench.

"Earlier employees on the bench were considered a strength as it meant the company had people readily available to take on newer projects. But that is changing now," notes a mid-management TCS employee, who didn't want to be named.

Profit maximisation

Not everybody entirely buys the AI story, though.

Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU), which currently has an active membership of 12,000 employees, feels AI is often used as an excuse for layoffs.

"As per our understanding, AI in the Indian IT sector still hasn't reached a stage where it would result in the elimination of job roles. What companies are doing is profit maximisation by laying off people in the mid to senior management who earn relatively higher salaries," says Suhas Adiga, general secretary of KITU.

"If AI is coming for multiple job roles, why are the layoffs targeting only mid-management roles? If it was the impact of AI, shouldn't roles at various levels have been affected?" he questions.

Mr. Karanth too notes that the disruption due to AI has been minimal.

"Take the example of TCS alone. Last year, the attrition was 12.5%. On a base of 6 lakh people, about 75,000 people exited the company. But if you look at their head count now, they are almost back at the same level, which means they have replaced almost everyone who exited. That means there is no impact of AI yet," he notes.

A mid layer problem

TCS's layoff announcement, unprecedented and uncharacteristically loud, has got the industry talking. Many fear that it will have a snowball effect and more companies will follow suit.

"The problem currently seems to be in the middle layer," notes Mahapatra. "The layer which is now old in terms of technology and was purely doing people management will be the most impacted."

According to Mr. Karanth, there are about 5 lakh people with more than 15 years of experience in the top six IT services companies in India. These consist of tech experts, domain experts, client experts and team managers. While companies have seen 12% to 17% attrition in the junior level (1 to 4 years of experience), in the mid to senior level, it has been only 4%. At the time of stress, the axe comes for the people managers.

"As per our understanding, when about a lakh people get hired yearly, about 15,000 get laid off yearly. These layoffs at junior levels don't impact the industry much, as people will quickly find new jobs. But in the case of TCS, most of the people who are being targeted now have been there for years. It is difficult for them to find new projects for their skillsets," Mr. Adiga says.

More layoffs

Amid all the din and beyond the semantics of 'rationalising', 'transitions' and 'inflection points', what seems to be clear is that layoffs would continue.

According to layoffs.fyi, 80,945 tech employees have been laid off by 179 tech companies across the globe in 2025. In Bengaluru alone, the number stands at 33,294.

"There's a lot of confusion and my expectation is that the layoffs will continue," says Mr. Mahapatra. "Some may happen openly, some may happen behind the scenes. AI may be used by many organisations as a pretext to do the layoffs and trimming, even if both are not connected."

What makes it a double whammy is that the industry is not only expected to see more layoffs, but is also looking at a hiring slowdown.

"An anticipation of AI disruption to rule based repeatable tasks like testing and similar skills has put the IT Services companies in a cautionary mode on hiring," notes Mr. Karanth, who also feels that the hiring slowdown also needs to be seen in the context of the sluggish performance if the top ITeS companies in the stock market for almost a year.

Layoffs in numbers

TCS has announced that it will release 2% of its global workforce, roughly translating to **12,000 employees**

Number of people laid off by Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Meta and others in the last 2 years **1.2 lakh**

In Bengaluru 33,294

Total tech layoffs in 2025 (as per layoffs.fyi) 80,945

What does all this mean for the Indian IT worker?

For those who lost their jobs, it could mean uncertainty and stress. For the freshers and juniors workforce, a chance at new AI roles. For the existing workforce, reskilling and even added work pressure at times.

"IT industry runs on a shortage of about 6 lakh employees as per their own estimates. Every project runs on a shortage of 2 to 3 people and that is why people are being forced to work overtime without pay. But the companies are able to get away with it as the government is not holding them accountable," says Mr. Adiga.

KITU has filed an Industrial Disputes case against TCS for alleged forced resignations and mass retrenchments. The Labour Department has initiated conciliatory meetings and has reportedly asked the company to maintain status quo by invoking Section 33 of the Industrial Disputes Act.

The net count

After accounting for both the elimination of redundant roles and the creation of new AI-augmented positions, what is going to be the net impact on employment compared to today?

"I think the net count will be negative," says Mr. Mahapatra. According to him, as AI becomes more streamlined, new roles will emerge, but the industry may not create mass job opportunities like it used to. While reskilling is one of the ways to address the problem, creation of AI-related roles in sectors apart from IT & ITeS is another, he notes.

"The strength lies in building our own products. We cannot depend only on IT companies. There are areas such as manufacturing, automobiles, aviation, defence, space and aerospace where AI can do wonders and AI-augmented job roles can open up."

The fading allure

The role of the IT industry in the rise of the Indian middle class and their upward social mobility in the last two decades is undeniable. But Mahapatra feels the allure of the industry may fade going forward.

"Earlier, many people who didn't understand or like programming would still get into IT because there is money in it. But now It is becoming mainstream. In the coming days, people who have an affinity for IT technologies, data, data sciences and AI will get into it. IT is not going to be that flashy green Mercedes car on the road which everybody would want to ride, it will be just another regular car.

But an immediate turbulence seems imminent. Given that the industry has been absorbing around 2 lakh people every year on average, even a reduction of 10 to 20% is going to send waves across the job market.

Law enforcement paramount

To keep the upheaval under check, law enforcement with regard to labour rights in the industry should be stricter, say employees and unions. An RTI document reveals how the Karnataka government renewed the exemption from Standing Orders for the sector despite a dissent note from the labour department that highlighted multiple violations by the companies.

Saurabh Bhattacharjee, co-director, Centre for Labour Studies, NLSIU, notes that even the laws that apply to the sector have not been enforced in the strictest manner. However, he notes that Karnataka is not an exception and most States show a reluctance to implement labour laws strictly when it comes to IT services.

"If you are in India, a job in IT is not much of a choice, but more or less the only option for the masses for upward social mobility; Because where else is the job?" asks Mr. Adiga, stressing on the unemployment indices in the country.

"The need to regulate this sector is, hence, paramount. It cannot continue to be lawless at the expense of employees for long. Not regulating the sector means leaving one of the largest labour forces in the country in uncertainty."

My buddy Rajini Raj Bahadur at his residence in Chamrajpet, Bengaluru. K BHAGYA PRAKASH

Ticket to stardom

50 years of Rajinikanth: The superstar was once a bus conductor. Meet his best friend Raj Bahadur, who drove the bus that the actor once worked in

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Raj Bahadur greets me with a friendly smile at his residence in Chamrajpet, Bengaluru. At 80, he understandably moves slowly and has slight hearing challenges. Nevertheless, I am quickly in awe of his memory. "I met Rajini on June 3, 1970. He joined the Bangalore Transport Service (now Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation) as a conductor, and I joined as a driver. We have remained close friends for 55 years," he says.

Be it at any public forum, Rajinikanth takes pride in his friendship with Bahadur, who was a pillar of the actor's dream of making it big in the film industry. The first one to recognise his skills, Bahadur encouraged Rajinikanth to pursue acting at the Madras Film Institute in Chennai, promising him all the financial help required. The rest, as they say, is history.

"He is the man who gave Tamil cinema its superstar," said veteran director SP Muthuraman, introducing Bahadur to the packed crowd at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai during the recent audio launch of *Coolie,* the upcoming Rajinikanth film. Bahadur, who sat among the biggest stars of Indian cinema such as Akkineni Nagarjuna and Aamir Khan, confesses to relishing the energetic atmosphere.

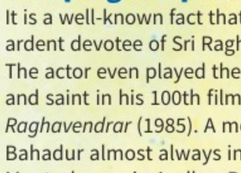
Coolie, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, hit the screens on August 14, marking Rajinikanth's 50th year in the film industry. Bahadur, a retired BMTC driver, who has been an integral part of Rajinikanth's incredible journey to the top, obliges us with his treasure trove, an album of memorable pictures with Rajinikanth and talking about the story behind some of the photographs.

Escaping the public eye

It is a well-known fact that Rajinikanth is an ardent devotee of Sri Raghavendra Swamy. The actor even played the Hindu scholar and saint in his 100th film, titled *Sri Raghavendrar* (1985). A meet-up with Bahadur almost always includes a trip to Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh to worship Raghavendra Swamy. Seen here are Rajinikanth, Bahadur and other friends, who chose a quiet spot to break for lunch. To avoid media attention and public scrutiny, Rajinikanth and his gang find secluded places during their travels to have a meal. Dharmasthala, Sri Kukke Subrahmanya and Tirupati are the other go-to temples for Rajini.

Best friends get nostalgic

Two best friends at the Jayanagar 4th Block Bus Station in Bengaluru. It is the place where Rajinikanth first met Bahadur, and the veteran star decided to give a surprise visit to the bus depot in 2023. Expectedly, the *Baasha* star got swamped by people requesting a selfie. Rajinikanth left the bus station after a brief interaction with drivers and conductors. Before reaching the depot, Rajinikanth visited the Ramakrishna Math in Basavanagudi. After his primary education, Rajini was enrolled in a Math by his brother. Bahadur saw his friend chant vedas and mantras as he meditated at the Math for an hour.



Honoured on stage

Bahadur being felicitated at the school run by Latha, the wife of Rajinikanth, in Chennai. He recalls Latha thanking him on stage for being the primary reason behind the rise of Rajinikanth. During annual events, the superstar has always told students about Bahadur's role in encouraging Rajini to pursue acting and providing the actor with financial help during his early days as a struggling actor in Chennai.

Food for love

The actor is a big fan of chicken, reveals Bahadur. During his visits to Bengaluru, Rajinikanth prefers having his meals in Bahadur's house. At other times, the lifelong friend usually takes along a tiffin carrier with chicken curry, chapathi, rasam, omelette, and fish, for him. He is not much of a mutton lover, claims Bahadur. Unless it is the only option, Rajini rarely eats at restaurants, he adds.

A birthday to remember

When friends meet, they party! Bahadur with Rajinikanth on the star's special birthday. This picture was clicked at Rajini's residence in Chennai on 12/12/12. The triple date sequence occurs once in a lifetime, and it became even more special for me because it was his birthday, says Bahadur.

Trivia time

Bahadur goes down memory lane even as he shows us the showcase filled with Rajinikanth memorabilia. He also shares an episode about Rajinikanth's early days as an actor. When Rajinikanth teared up with joy near Kapali theatre in Bengaluru at seeing himself on the big screen in his debut *Apoorva Raagangal* (1975), Bahadur told him that it was just the beginning of a long ride. He remembers Rajini perfecting his style, be it in his walk, the way he sat, or smoked a cigarette in K Balachander's *Moondru Mudichu* (1976), that also starred Kamal Haasan and Sridevi. The success of that film made Rajinikanth a dedicated actor, says Bahadur. "He worked continuously, project after project, and was never willing to rest."

A theatrical encounter

Silvatein – The Wrinkles in Time, a play by the Quissa Collective, to be staged in Bengaluru

Preeti Zachariah
preeti.zachariah@thehindu.co.in

Shatarupa Bhattacharyya found herself fascinated by Medea when she first read about the sorceress many years ago. As someone who only does plays with strong female characters, Medea was a source of inspiration because she had empowered herself, explains the Bengaluru-based theatre artiste and social scientist. "I was intrigued by the storyline, the character's agency and the emotional drama, but I also wanted to make it a simpler version because Medea has been done a lot. I wanted to place that premise into contemporary times."

This is exactly what Shatarupa has done with *Silvatein - The Wrinkles in Time*, a Hindi play that she has written and directed. Performed by the Quissa Collective, it will be staged on August 17 at Medai - The Stage, Koramangala, as part of the third edition of Theatre Binge. This will be the 14th performance of the play, which premiered in Bengaluru in March 2024 and has travelled to Jaipur, Alwar, and Kolkata since then.

Silvatein, which tells the story of an encounter between two seeming strangers, Rupali Choudhury and Arijit Mallick, is an "autopsy of incompatibility.My objective was not to sensationalise a breakup drama. What I wanted was an exploration of what happens after relationships have ended."

The form of the play is ambiguous, with the two people on stage remembering their relationship differently, making the audience question whose truth they are watching. Also, Shatarupa has attempted to structure the play to mimic how human memory seems to work. "The narrative is fractured, like how memory works. We do not remember things in a linear fashion."

The play also comes from a personal space, says Shatarupa. "One of the key elements that I wanted to have in this play is everyday feminism, something that I have seen in my family."

Her early understanding of feminism, came from her mother, grandmother and aunt, "before I read Simone de Beauvoir or any other feminist scholar." According to her, this sort of feminism is not about slogans and grand speeches. "It is about very mundane, almost invisible microdynamics in a relationship."

Silvatein - The Wrinkles in Time will be staged on August 17 at Medai - The Stage, Koramangala, 3.30 pm onwards. Tickets, priced at ₹350, are available on BookMyShow

Delving into everyday feminism Director Shatarupa Bhattacharyya SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

STEPOUT

Book talk

Indian philosopher Sundar Sarukkai will be in conversation with Srikar Raghavan, discussing Sundar's new book *Water Days.* The book, which revolves around a death in Bengaluru's neighborhood, explores the city's transformation.
At Champaca Bookstore, Vasanth Nagar, on August 16, 6 pm onwards. Entry free.

Notes of freedom

To mark India's 79th Independence Day, Indian Military bands such as the Army Brass Band, Pipe Band, and Jazz Band will be performing a mix of patriotic anthems, ceremonial marches, soulful jazz arrangements, and traditional pipe music.
At Fan Park, 2nd Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia on August 15, 11 am onwards. Entry free.

BEIJING

China urges Thailand, Cambodia reconciliation in three-way talks

AFP

China offered to help Thailand and Cambodia resolve their border dispute on Thursday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. Mr. Wang met both counterparts, discussed regional cooperation, trade, and investments, and voiced support for Cambodia's political stability, and continued trilateral communication. REUTERS

TAWILA

At least 40 dead in Sudan's worst cholera outbreak in years: MSF

AFP

Cholera has killed at least 40 in Darfur in a week, with nearly one lakh suspected cases in Sudan, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Thursday. It said war, displacement, and scarce clean water worsen the outbreak. Tawila camps face extreme shortages, and the disease spreads regionally, prompting urgent warnings for aid. AFP

PARIS

Exert pressure on Taliban to allow girls' education, UN tells countries

AP

The United Nations urged nations on Thursday to keep diplomatic pressure on the Taliban, condemning their ban on girls' education affecting 2.2 million. UNESCO's Audrey Azoulay called it "gender apartheid," urging full restoration of rights. Afghanistan is the only country prohibiting secondary and higher education for girls. AFP

BELGRADE

Clashes erupt for a second day at anti-government protests in Serbia

REUTERS

Clashes erupted for a second day on Wednesday between Serbian anti-government protesters and President Vucic's supporters in several cities. Dozens were injured and detained as student-led protests, sparked by corruption allegations, demand early elections amid escalating political tensions. AP

Smotrich approves settlement in bid to 'bury' idea of Palestine state

The plan seeks to build 3,401 houses for Israeli settlers between an existing settlement in the West Bank and Jerusalem; Palestinians and world powers have said it would effectively lop the occupied territory in two and draw international anger

Reuters
TEL AVIV

Israeli far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich has approved plans for a settlement that would split East Jerusalem from the occupied West Bank, a move his office said would bury the idea of a Palestinian state.

It was not immediately clear if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu backed the plan to revive the long-frozen E1 scheme, which Palestinians and world powers have said would effectively lop the West Bank in two and will likely draw international ire.

In a statement headlined "Burying the idea of a Palestinian state", Mr. Smotrich's spokesperson announced the decision and said the development would build 3,401 houses for Israeli settlers between an existing settlement in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Thawing plans: Bezalel Smotrich, left, holds a map that shows the E1 settlement scheme, at a press meet on Thursday. REUTERS

Israel had frozen construction plans there since 2012 because of objections from the U.S., European allies and other world powers who considered the project a threat to any future peace deal with the Palestinians.

Palestinians fear the settlement building in the West Bank – which has sharply intensified since the 2023 Hamas attack on Israel that led to the Gaza war – will rob them of any chance to build a state of their own in the area.

Settler violence has rocketed, from destruction of olive groves and cutting water and electricity in communities like Susiya, to incendiary attacks on Christian holy sites.

There was no immediate statement from Mr. Netanyahu or the broader government. Mr. Smotrich's popularity has fallen in recent months with polls showing his party would not win a single seat if parliamentary elections were held today.

'Crimes of genocide'

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry called the new settlement plan an extension of crimes of genocide, displacement and annexation, and an echo of Mr. Netanyahu's statements regarding what he called 'Greater Israel'.

The E1 project would connect the Maale Adumim settlement in the West Bank with Jerusalem. Most of the international community views Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and its military occupation over the region since 1967, as illegal.

Peace Now, which tracks settlement activity in the West Bank, said the Housing Ministry had approved the construction of 3,300 homes in Maale Adumim.

"The E1 plan is deadly for the future of Israel and for any chance of achieving a peaceful two-state solution. We are standing at the edge of an abyss, and the government is driving us forward at full speed," Peace Now said in a statement.

Palestinians were already demoralised by the Israeli military campaign which has killed more than 61,000 people in Gaza, according to local health authorities, and fear Mr. Netanyahu will ultimately push them out of that territory.

Zelenskyy, Starmer meet ahead of Trump-Putin talks

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer at Downing Street on Thursday morning, a day before the Presidents of Russia and the U.S. are to meet in Anchorage, Alaska, to discuss a ceasefire to Russia-Ukraine war.

A Downing Street readout of the Zelenskyy-Starmer meeting said the two men looked at Friday's meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin as a " viable chance to make progress as long as Putin takes action to prove he is serious about peace".

"We also discussed in considerable detail the security guarantees that can make peace truly durable if the United States succeeds in pressing Russia to stop the killings and engage in genuine, substantive diplomacy," Mr. Zelenskyy said on X, after the meeting of the so-called Coalition of the Willing, a group of mostly European countries that would provide a "reassurance force" in Ukraine, to help maintain peace, following any ceasefire between Kyiv and Moscow.

Friendly talks: Keir Starmer walks out with Volodymyr Zelenskyy after a meeting at Downing Street in London on Thursday. AP

Mr. Zelenksyy was in Berlin to meet with the group on Wednesday prior to a conference call with Mr. Trump and U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance – who is in the U.K. at the moment. The call was hosted by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

Mr. Starmer and Mr. Zelenksyy reviewed Wednesday's meeting and had "agreed there had been a powerful sense of unity and a strong resolve to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine," Downing Street said.

Europe has been engaging Mr. Trump prior to Friday's discussions with Mr. Putin. The U.S. President also reacted favourably to his call with the European leaders.

"I would rate it a 10. Very friendly," Mr. Trump had said about the call. The U.S. President has said he will meet Mr. Zelenskyy and Mr. Putin together, if Friday's meeting in Alaska goes well.

'Systematic' attacks on civilians in Syria, says UN

Associated Press
DAMASCUS

A UN-backed commission that investigated sectarian violence on Syria's coast earlier this year found that there was "widespread and systematic" violence against civilians perpetrated by some government-affiliated factions, but found no evidence that it was directed by the central government.

An extensive report released on Thursday by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria examined the violence that began with clashes between armed groups aligned with former Syrian President Bashar Assad and the new government's security forces in March. It spiralled into sectarian revenge attacks and massacres, months after Assad's ouster, that killed hundreds of civilians from the Alawite minority, to which Assad belongs.

Pakistan will set up Rocket Force Command: Shehbaz

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will establish a new military force to supervise its missile capabilities, the Prime Minister has said, after its worst conflict in decades with India.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced the formation of the Rocket Force Command while addressing an Independence Day ceremony in Islamabad attended by senior military officials late on Wednesday.

"It will be equipped with modern technology and capable of striking the enemy from all directions," Mr. Sharif said at the ceremony, during which the deadly clash with India in May dominated official speeches and displays.

"It will improve our conventional war capabilities," he said, commending the military for its performance.

Islamabad is in talks to acquire 40 new Chinese fighter jets and new air defence systems

Pakistan and India fought an intense four-day conflict in May that killed dozens of people on both sides in missile, drone and artillery fire, the worst clashes between the nuclear-armed neighbours since 1999.

Higher defence spend

Islamabad is boosting its military capabilities following the conflict, increasing defence spending by 20% in the current Budget that was passed in June.

It also announced that it was in discussions to acquire 40 new Chinese fighter jets and new air defence systems.

"After the recent conflict, the object of course is to further strengthen Pakistan's military capability and this is a part of that process," defence analyst Talat Masood said.

The May conflict was triggered by a deadly attack on tourists in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22, which resulted in the death of 26 civilians.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 14.08.2025

Tender Notification- IISc/ Tender-CIV-11/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in**. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD / CPWD / railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/ Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of **"Construction of Amenity Complex at IISc, Bangalore".** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.20,74,73,503/-.** Last date of receipt of application is **03rd Sep 2025 at 15:30Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

Sd/-, Registrar

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2025_KMML_785900_1	For the supply of Bucket Elevator -1 No
2	2025_KMML_786525_1	For supply of Compensating Cable K-Type and Cable Control Triad of various sizes

Chavara 14.08.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KSFE E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender for Supply, Installation, Implementation and Managed Services of SD-WAN solution in Opex Model for KSFE Offices for 7 years

Tender Id: 2025_KSFE_783186_1 @ http://etenders.kerala.gov.in
Cost of Tender form - Rs.29,500/- EMD - Rs.8,00,000/-
Bid submission start date – 27.08.2025 11.00 hours
Bid submission end date – 08.09.2025 17.00 hours

For more details, visit **www.ksfe.com** or contact Registered office,"Bhadratha" Museum Road, Thrissur-20. Ph: 0487-2332255

Date: 13.08.2025 (Sd/-) Managing Director

GUJARAT URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
GUVNL
CIN U40109GJ2004SGC045195
ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company
Sardar Patel Vidyut Bhavan, Racecourse, Vadodara 390007
PBX: (0265) 2310582-86, www.guvnl.com

TENDER NOTICE

Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL), a Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of 1000 MW RTC power for the months from September to October 2025 as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India Guidelines **dated 30.03.2016** read with amendment to the guideline notified on **21.02.2022.** RFP is available at **www.mstcecommerce.com** from **14.08.2025.** Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.

Date: 14-08-2025 **General Manager (Power Trading)**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
Phone:-06842 254004 E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_09 of 2025-26
No. 1348 Dated : 07/08/2025

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani** on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for construction of the **Road works** as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.

2.	Nature of work	:	**Road Work**
3.	No. of tenders	:	**Two Nos**
4.	Tender Cost	:	**Rs.10,000/-** (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**A and Special Class**
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids	:	**10.00 AM of 19.08.2025 to 5.00 PM of 02.09.2025**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**11.00 AM of 03.09.2025**
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
B-390: OIPR-34129/11/0025/2526

Government of Odisha, **"e"- Procurement Notice**
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dkl.(R&B)06/2025-26
Letter No.1772/ Dt.13/08/2025 Email Id- sedklpwd@gmail.com

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for road & building works as detailed below:

1.	Name of the work	: **Road & Building works.**
2.	No of works	: **05 (Five) Nos**
3.	Estimated Cost	: **Rs.1.66 Crore to 6.91 Crore** (as given in column No.03 of table)
4.	Cost of tender paper	: **Rs.10,000.00**
5.	Class of contractor	: **'B' Class, 'A' Class & 'Special'Class** (as given in column No.07 of table)
6.	Period of Completion of work	: **07 (Seven) to 09 (Nine)** Calendar months **(as given in column No.08 of table)**
7.	Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website	: From Dt.**20.08.2025** to **5.00 P.M. of Dt.03.09.2025**
8.	Date of opening of bid	: Dt.**04.09.2025** at **11.00 A.M.**

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only, further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal
B-405: OIPR - 34132/11/0037/2526

By E_Mail/e-Despatch: E_Mail ID: serw_balasore@yahoo.in; Ph-No-06782/260318, Balia,Balasore
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
"e"- Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No.22 for 2025-26
Letter No: - 2799 Date. 07/08/2025

1. Name of the Work : SDMF Road
2. Total No. of Work : 12 Nos. of Work
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
5. Period of Completion : As per annexure
6. Other Details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E., R.W.Circle, Balasore Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore.	NCB No.-22 of 2025-26	18.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	04.09.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	03.09.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.	06.09.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website : www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Balasore.
O-575: OIPR-25105/11/0071/2526

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ଯୋଜ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆମ୍ବଇର ଇନକମ ଟିକସଘର, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

E-Mail/E-despatch
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GEPNIC e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/17-2025-26/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 17-2025-26/ BPR	Road Works under MMSY-TRIP	03 Nos	From Rs. 138.27 Lakhs to Rs.538.69 Lakhs	"B" Class & "A" Class as applicable	Period of Completion as provided as per Col.No.5 of Annexure of NIT

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender /17-2025-26/BPR	19.08.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	02.09.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.
(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-592: OIPR-25071/11/0111/2526